■ Entertainment / A2-1
Sensational secret fakes of 'Fantastic Four'

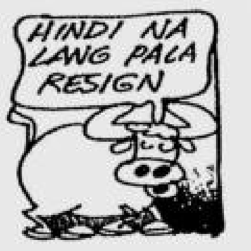
■ World / A10
Police identify '5th man' behind bombing in London

■ News / A2
It is easier to impeach GMA now, Drilon says

■ Sports / A28
Tiger Woods pulls away from British Open field

■ Lifestyle / D1
Modern RP design loses pillar with passing of Eli Pinto

Bishop says he never called on the President to resign


HINDI NA LANG PALA RESIGN

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR STILL unclear reasons, it took a Catholic bishop two weeks to correct news reports that he and two other

BISHOP/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, July 15, 2005 ★★ 92 pages / 13 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 219 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Team Asia rips Europe for first MVP Cup title

OLYMPIC champion Zhang Ning and world No. 1 Lin Dan of China handily won the concluding singles matches last night to lift Team Asia to an 11-7 victory over team Europe in the first MVP Cup badminton championships at the Philsports. Zhang dumped Chinese-born Yao Jie of the Netherlands, 11-8, 11-0, while Lin whipped Anders Boesen of Denmark, 15-1, 15-6. *(See story in Sports, Page A25.)*

Back to battle of tapes

'Dagdag' heard in Garci tape as Chavit tags Erap in 'plot'

By Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora and Blanche Rivera

THE "TALE of the tape" has reached new heights with the opposition producing what it says is an enhanced recording of a wiretapped telephone conversation purportedly showing that President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the padding of her votes in the last election.

Enter Gov. Luis (Chavit) Singson, an administration supporter from Ilocos Sur.

Singson called a news conference yesterday to announce he recognized a voice from the same wiretap belonging to deposed President Joseph Estrada whom he helped oust in 2001.

Singson said his audio recording captured Estrada talking with former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Joselin Nazareno and certain "political operators" about an attempt to unseat Ms Arroyo.

"Former President Estrada was the one who was on the tape," said Singson. "I know his voice well."

In statement issued yesterday, Estrada scoffed at Singson's effort although he admit-

BACK/ A22

PRAYERS and more prayers. Former President Cory Aquino hears Mass at St. Scholastica's College joined by (from left) Ricardo Romulo, Makati Business Club president, ex-DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman and Sister Angelica Leviste. REUTERS

Cory-Kris defenders slam Gonzalez

By Philip C. Tubeza, Norman Bordadora and Cynthia Balana

POLITICIANS crossed party lines yesterday to rush to the defense of former President Cory Aquino against the personal, "gossipy" attacks of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Gonzalez on Wednesday said that Aquino should fix the love affairs of her youngest daughter Kris rather than the affairs of state.

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, who severed ties with the Aquino family in 2001 when Cory Aquino called for the resignation of President Joseph Estrada, said Gonzalez's words showed the Arroyo administration not only lacked integrity but also manners.

Saguisag was Estrada's lawyer and continues to this day to defend Estrada before the Sandiganbayan for alleged plunder.

In a letter to Gonzalez, Saguisag reminded him that, "Because of Ninoy's supreme sacrifice, (Kris) grew up without the presence of a father. What gives you the right to pass judgment on her?" Saguisag was referring to martyred former Sen. Benigno Aquino.

"This woman needs help, not insult, that demeans and degrades the administration you serve, for which taxpayers like Kris enable you to sneer at us," Saguisag also said.

Makati Rep. Teodoro "Teddyboy" Locsin, an administration ally, took note of Gonzalez's threats of arrests against administration critics, including former Social Welfare Secretary

CORY-KRIS/ A8

Cory denies shouting match with Gloria

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A DAY after the opposition mounted its biggest street protest against President Macapagal-Arroyo, organizers dismissed charges they had paid off participants and Corazon Aquino called for prayers so the Chief Executive would step aside even as she denied she and Ms Arroyo shouted at each other last week.

Continuing her pleas for Ms Arroyo to stand down over allegations she cheated in last year's elections, the 72-year-old Aquino said the prayers "should acknowledge the weakness of the human person, no matter how high the office we hold or how great the authority we wield."

"Government is not just about getting things done, whatever they are," said Aquino, who in 1986 led a People Power revolt that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and swept her to Malacañang. She said it is "getting the right things done, for the right reasons with the right people."

Ms Arroyo has confessed to a "lapse in judgment" in talking to an election official in a telephone conversation that was tapped during the balloting but she denied any wrongdoing. She has also declared she would never resign and challenged her opponents to impeach her.

Ms Aquino denied that there were raised voices at a recent meeting with Ms Arroyo despite their disagreements.

"While it is true that I did ask her to make the supreme sacrifice of resigning, there was

CORY/ A22

GMA names Neri to DBM, picks banker to head Trade

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

REBUILDING her economic team after her core economic managers quit and called on her to do the same, President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed yesterday the head of the stock exchange to the Department of Trade and Industry.

The President announced the appointment of Peter Favila, Philippine Stock Exchange chair, as trade secretary in place of Juan Santos who resigned last week along with nine other Cabinet officials and agency heads.

Favila, a nephew of former Central Bank Governor Gabriel Singson, was the head of the state-run Philippine National Bank during the Ramos administration. He used to be connected with Allied Bank, Metrobank, Citibank and Security Bank.

Ms Arroyo moved Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri to the Department of Budget and Management, taking the place of Emilia Boncodin who was part of the "Hyatt 10" who resigned their posts and shed for Ms Arroyo's resignation. The group claimed the President had lost the public's trust over allegations of vote fraud.

Augusto "Tito" Santos, deputy director general at the National Economic and Development Authority, was appointed the new economic planning secretary. Santos obtained his master's degree in Business Administration and his bachelor's degree in

GMA/ A6

THUMBS UP for President Arroyo from 516 visiting Fil-Americans who listened to her fiery speech at the Palace on Thursday. The group was organized by the Philippine Embassy in Washington to compose the first ambassadorial-consul tour. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA: This is not a popularity contest

By Christine O. Avendaño, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Margaux C. Ortiz

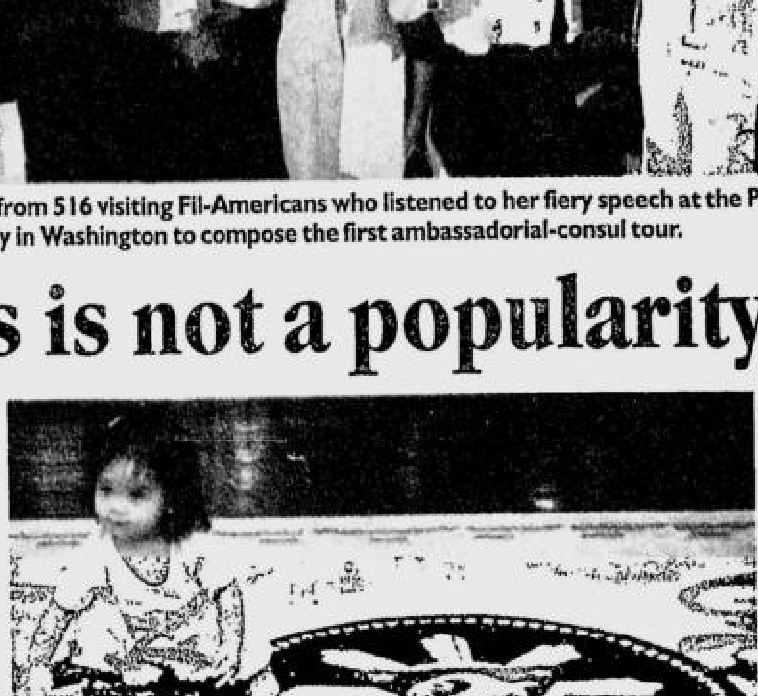
UNFAZED by a mounting clamor for her to resign, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday vowed to fight her political enemies "every step of the way," saying they offered "a road that leads to nowhere."

To reverse the steep fall of her popularity ratings, Ms Arroyo also planned to spend up to P6 billion to recycle two campaign gimmicks—Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) cards and street jobs—that boosted her reelection bid last year.

The President's allies are also mobilizing half a million people for a prayer rally on Saturday *(Story on Page A21)*, three days after 40,000 protesters marched and chanted in Makati City to demand Ms Arroyo's resignation over allegations of vote-rigging in last year's election and corruption in her family.

In a speech at Malacañang that was aired over radio and television, Ms Arroyo acknowledged that her popularity had taken a

GMA/ A21



EDWIN BACASMAS

A CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM. Presidential granddaughter Eva Victoria Arroyo is a calming presence at the stressed out Palace.

Congress blamed for EVAT woes in SC hearing

By Armand N. Nocum and Michelle V. Remo

PETITIONERS who obtained a freeze order on the expanded value-added tax (VAT) from the Supreme Court yesterday accused members of Congress of shirking their responsibilities by granting President Macapagal-Arroyo a stand-by authority to raise the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent in January.

In its petition to nullify the law in May, the party list group Abakada Guro used this argument in asking the high tribunal to declare the VAT law null and void for being unconstitutional.

Petroleum dealers also asked the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional three provisions of the VAT law, saying they are "oppressive" and do not conform to the concept of equality in taxation.

The provisions are the imposition of a 70-percent cap on input VAT claims of taxpayers, the spreading over a five-year period of the input VAT credits from the purchase of capital equipment worth at least P1 million, and the 5-percent final withholding VAT on the sale of goods or services to government entities.

The Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) on the VAT law, the centerpiece of the government's economic reform policy, hours after its implementation on July 1.

The new VAT law covers previ-

CONGRESS/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. SOURCE: PAGASA

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains,
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

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Easier to impeach now–Drilon

By Philip C. Tubeza, Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet Labog-Javellana

WITH the Liberal Party's 34-member contingent in the House of Representatives reportedly deciding to support impeachment, Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo might go "faster than what people think."

In an interview with ANC television, Drilon said that the House's LP members had agreed that there being no indication that the President would voluntarily resign, they would support an impeachment complaint.

Drilon, the LP president who broke away from Ms Arroyo last week urging her to step down, said that with the 34 LP House members, the "magic number of 78" needed to transmit the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate for trial would be achieved.

Administration Rep. Douglas Cagas said however that the automatic referral of the complaint was by no means assured as the LP party stand was to allow a "conscience vote" among its members.

'LP not solid'

"The opposition surely will not get the whole of the Liberal Party's 34. The situation remains fluid and many congressmen are weighing their decision in endorsing the complaint," Cagas said in a statement.

The opposition in the House has turned its attention to filing an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo after she ignored calls for her to resign and her high-profile critics, including Drilon and former President Corazon Aquino, failed to inspire a people power uprising.

A vote by one-third of the 236-member House, or 78 votes, would lead to the automatic transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate, where the impeachment trial could be controlled by the opposition with Drilon's defection.

Opposition Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano said that while the impeachment process may well be a "trap," the opposition had no choice since the President has refused to resign.

'Inherently weak'

The opposition is faced with the problem of how to make a solid case of the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano which Minority Leader Francis Escudero earlier described as "inherently weak."

A battery of opposition legislators who are also lawyers is now studying the Lozano complaint which lacks the necessary attachments and evidence to prove Ms Arroyo's wrongdoing.

Cayetano said the majority had preempted the minority by endorsing the Lozano complaint last month and now the opposition is legally barred from withdrawing it.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said due process and adherence to House rules would guide the actions of the House to give proponents and oppositors of the impeachment complaint an equal opportunity to present their positions.

But he warned the opposition against resorting to political gimmickry or disinformation that could subvert the process. Any underhanded move to do so will be thwarted, he said.

Opposition Rep. Rolex Suplico claimed yesterday that the administration has started releasing the pork barrel allocations in an effort to block the moves to impeach Ms Arroyo.

He complained that the releases favored the President's supporters.

Suplico said his public works allocation amounted to only P1.1 million while another Western Visayas legislator, a known supporter of the President, got P26 million.

"This shows that they themselves are not sure about their own numbers and are trying to shore up their ranks," he said.

As of yesterday, the opposition count showed that it had 75 to 80 lawmakers already supporting the impeachment complaint, Suplico said.

He said he and other opposition lawmakers had been getting calls from administration officials to dissuade them from voting in favor of impeachment.

Resisting temptation

"I got two calls but I said no. I no longer wanted to listen because I might be tempted," Suplico said, while declining to reveal what was offered in return for a "no" vote.

Suplico said minority lawmakers and their lawyers would be meeting today to prepare the impeachment complaint, which might be filed on or before the President's State of the Nation Address on July 25.

He said the grounds for impeachment would include culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, treason and other "high crimes."

Suplico also said that the opposition would provide other evidence, aside from the Gloriagate tapes.

However, Cayetano said the Supreme Court could still intervene in the case, noting that the House has yet to approve its new impeachment rules.

"All of this will be a long and painful process. We can talk on the legal probabilities but we can't say for certain what would happened because the court might intervene," he said.

ANTI-GMA PROTESTS

Police bracing for bigger rallies

POLICE are busy preparing for a possible face-off with a protest crowd even bigger than the reported 40,000 in Makati the other day when President Macapagal-Arroyo addresses the nation at the opening of Congress on July 25.

At a command conference yesterday to map out security plans, Quezon City police authorities said they expect Ms Arroyo's State of the Nation Address at the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City to be marked by massive demonstrations calling for the President's resignation.

Quezon City Police District Nicasio Radovan Jr. said some 7,000 troops are to be deployed all over the city, with 3,000 to be stationed around the Batasan complex and the rest at strategic areas like the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Police presence will also be increased in malls, transport terminals and other busy places, said Radovan.

He said the protesters could number in the tens of thousands, much more than the number that converged in the Makati business district on Wednesday.

Bloating estimates

Camp Crame officials, however, placed the Makati crowd at no more than 15,000. (*See related story.*)

Radovan said the city police preferred to "exaggerate" the number of protesters than underestimate them and then have to deal with unforeseen incidents.

He said the Quezon City police department was monitoring intelligence and media reports of threats of infiltration of the protest action by terrorists.

He urged the leaders of opposition, militant and civil society groups to police their own ranks.

Protesters should take note of suspicious-looking people whom they do not know, he said.

Senior government officials meanwhile were yesterday congratulating themselves that the anti-Arroyo rally on Wednesday ended without incident.

"Everyone deserves a pat on the back for a job well done," said a statement from Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes.

PNP chief Arturo Lomibao thanked the organizers for their cooperation.

Confident that the storm has passed, the PNP yesterday lowered its alert status to heightened alert.

According to the police, no major security problems were encountered during the Makati rally, except for complaints from some media people who lost their personal belongings. Three female protesters also collapsed, probably from exhaustion, police said.

Harassment

Rally organizers cried harassment, however. They said the authorities had seized two vehicles and barred some 13 jeepneys in Camarines Sur from entering Metro Manila.

The Militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said the police detained two drivers who were taking protesters from San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, to Makati.

"The police told them that they carried NPAs (New People's Army members)," KMP information officer Carl Ala said. The drivers were released after the rally ended.

The PNP faces another big rally, but this time by pro-Arroyo forces at the Luneta in Manila on Saturday.

PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon said the Metro Manila police might need a bigger anti-riot contingent as the Luneta was much bigger than Ayala Avenue.

The police will not treat the pro-Arroyo forces any differently from the anti-Arroyo groups, Razon said.

Administration legislators yesterday appealed to anti-Arroyo forces to stop their protest actions which they said were fomenting divisions and jeopardizing the country's economic prospects.

They said the Makati protest action on Wednesday failed to duplicate the previous two people power revolutions.

"Maybe it's time for them to throw in the towel and just work with the administration to address the more pressing concerns of the country, particularly in addressing the economic backlash of their actions," Zialcita said.

"The President is listening to their grievances. That's the reason she has expressed readiness to face the impeachment process," Veloso said. *DJ Yap*

So, who says cops can't count people?

By Luige A. del Puerto

FACED with opposition taunts that they cannot count, police yesterday said their crowd estimate of the anti-Arroyo rally in Makati last Wednesday was scientific.

"I didn't look at the crowd, sigh, and then quote a number," said Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

"I have to put some kind of science to these estimates. What I did was to get a map, and calculate from there," he said.

According to police officials in Camp Crame, the protest rally on Wednesday demanding the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo at its peak stood at 15,000.

Rally organizers claimed to have mustered a crowd of 60,000 while estimates by media, including the INQUIRER, placed the crowd at 40,000 or more.

According to Querol, the police formula was to first get the space occupied by protesters, translate it into square meters, and then multiply it by 1 to 4, depending upon the density of the crowd.

For example, if people are standing shoulder to shoulder on 10 sq m, you multiply it by 4. On the other hand, you multiply it by 1 if the people can move around freely. So depending upon the density, the crowd estimate can be as low as 10 or as high as 40.

In the case of the Makati rally, the police said the protesters occupied some 12,000 sq m of space, with the crowd mainly concentrated on Ayala Avenue stretching from the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank building to Rufino Street.

"Beyond 100 meters from the stage, people could already walk, sit or wave banners. We estimated that the packed crowd occupied only about 3,000 sq m," said Querol.

Multiplying 3,000 by 2—because Querol said even the crowd at the center was not that closely huddled together—gives 6,000. This means 6,000 persons occupied the area immediately near the rally stage.

The 9,000 sq m were occupied by people who could still walk around or sit. There were also pockets of space with no people, he said.

So the police multiplied 9,000 by 1, which would mean some 9,000 people occupied the areas farther from the stage.

That would make a crowd of about 15,000, said Querol.

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PANGILINAN

Sen. Kiko in limbo after LP defection

By TJ Burgonio

MORE than anybody else, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan stands to suffer the worst political backlash from the Liberal Party's withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

By casting his lot with LP senators who on Friday asked the President to step down, the promising Pangilinan has virtually compromised his political career, an administration lawmaker said yesterday.

"Kiko is eyeing reelection in 2007. I doubt if the opposition will pick him up considering his role in the canvassing for the presidential votes. I'm not sure if Gloria will still include him in the administration ticket because of what happened," he said.

"So where will he go?" added the senator, who asked not to be named.

Pangilinan joined Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and 17 other LP members in calling for the President to step down at the height of the clamor for her resignation last Friday.

The LP group in the Senate, including Sen. Manuel Roxas II, has drawn criticisms for their move and been virtually isolated from the administration bloc, according to some of the colleagues.

Pangilinan, one of the President's most loyal and trusted lieutenants in the chamber until his party's defection, agreed with his colleague's observations, saying that could be "partly true."

"I would like to think that there is more to being a public servant than ensuring one's reelection victory. If it's my destiny, I can always retire from politics early and serve the nation in some other way," he added.

Still, the senator said "a lot can happen between now and 2007."

Pangilinan, married to popular singer-actress Sharon Cuneta, won a Senate seat in May 2001 for a six-year term.

He is best remembered for his role as co-chair of the congressional committee that conducted the canvassing of the votes for President and Vice President last year, where he drew criticisms for the committee's "lack of transparency." Opposition had derisively called him Mr. Noted, for allegedly dismissing motions by saying "Noted."

When Congress opened in July last year, Pangilinan was elected Majority Floor Leader. And until the LP's withdrawal, he's been perceived as a good material for Vice President.

The administration senator, who asked not to be named, said that unlike Pangilinan, Biazon won't be seeking reelection until 2010. "If at all, he has six years to repair [his image]," he said.

Drilon himself is in danger of losing his grip on power following the LP's move, administration senators had predicted.

F4 member in car crash

TAIPEI—Vic Chou, a member of F4 of "Meteor Garden" fame, crashed his NT$8 million black racing car on the Taipei expressway, hitting two other cars on the road in the process, in the wee morning hours Thursday. He was speeding at 120 km per hour and overtaking the vehicle in front when he lost control of his car. All three drivers were not injured. Chou's car was wrecked. The three cars ended up in a pile-up.

Chou passed the alcohol test given by the police. At the police precinct where he was brought, the celebrity with a big following in and outside Taiwan pulled down his cap and appeared to be in a bad mood. He apologized to the two drivers and offered to pay for the damages he caused.

Chou, a racing aficionado, was known to be very fond of driving his racing car even to school. Sometimes he would invite his classmates to join him for a race in the expressway.

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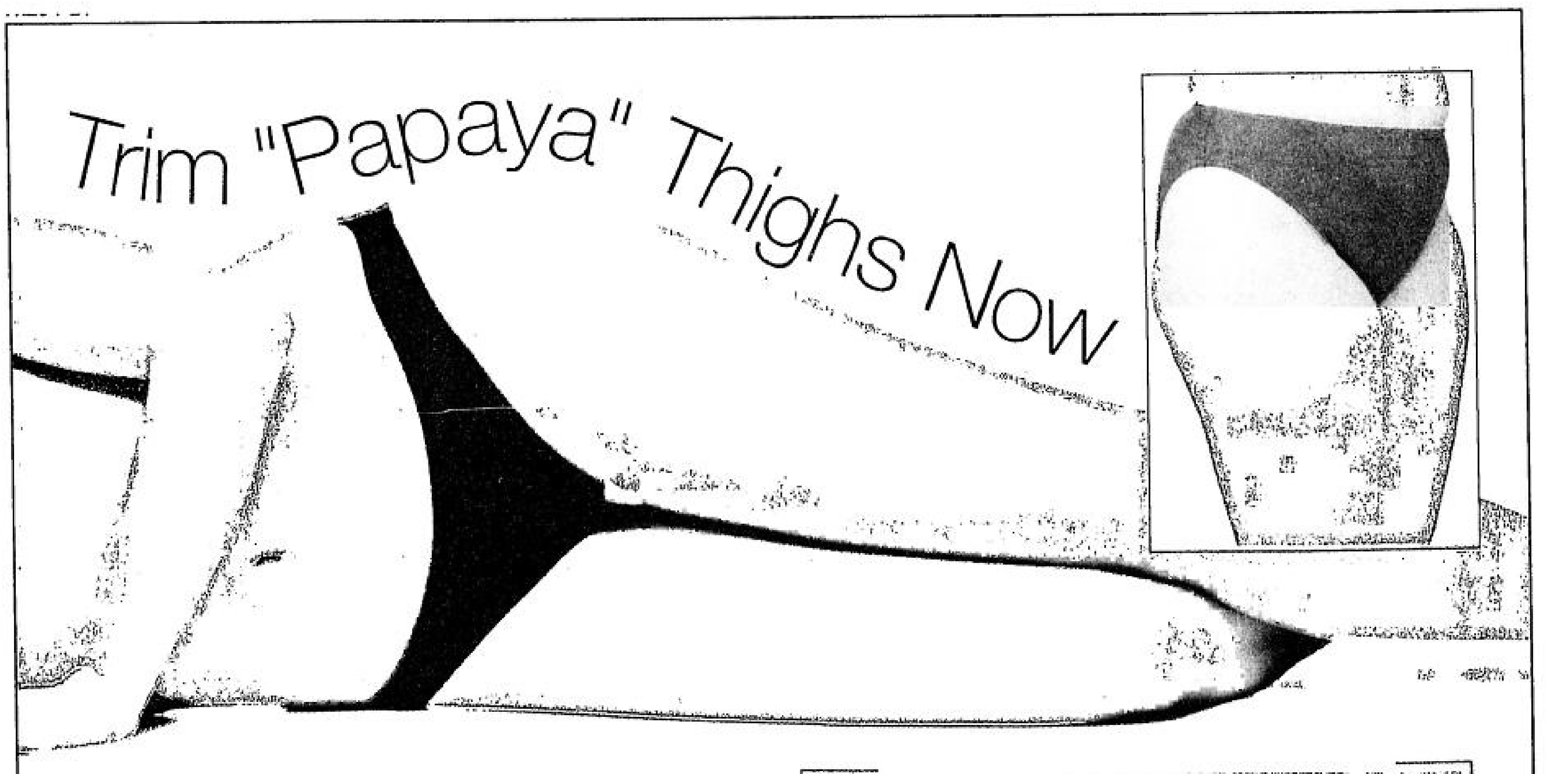

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Aussie PM apologizes to Pinay

CANBERRA, Australia — Prime Minister John Howard yesterday apologized to a Filipino-Australian citizen who was wrongly deported to the Philippines following the release of a government report on the incident that called for an overhaul of the nation's immigration department.

But the lawyer of Vivian Alvarez rejected the apology, saying it was meaningless unless his government improved its offer to bring her back to Australia and provide her with at least six months' care and housing.

Alvarez, a Philippine-born dual citizen since 1986, was mistakenly identified as an illegal immigrant and deported in 2001 after she was seriously injured in a car accident.

In May, the partly paralyzed Alvarez was tracked down at a hospice for the dying in Olongapo City outside Metro Manila after widespread publicity about her case. She remains in the Philippines while her lawyers negotiate with the Australian government over a compensation package and other conditions for her return.

Howard apologized to Alvarez and a German-born Australian resident, Cornelia Rau, whose detention for 10 months on suspicion of being an illegal immigrant sparked the government inquiry.

"Both Cornelia Rau and Mrs. Alvarez are owed apologies for their treatment and on behalf of the government I give those apologies to both of those women who were the victims of mistakes by the department," Howard told reporters.

Even so, Howard refused to discuss publicly the possibility of paying compensation to the two women.

The government has been awaiting the results of the inquiry by former Federal Police Commissioner Mick Palmer before apologizing for the incidents.

ALVAREZ

Alvarez's lawyer George Newhouse rejected Howard's apology.

"If they were serious about an apology, they would commit to an appropriate care package for Vivian so she can return to the country — otherwise it's just crocodile tears," Newhouse said.

The Palmer report found that Alvarez was a "partial quadriplegic" at the time of her deportation after immigration officials failed to realize that she was an Australian resident who had been listed as a missing person. Alvarez's lawyers have said their client was so incapacitated that she could not sign her name and had to use a thumb print as signature.

Howard said a new team would head the immigration department to implement changes recommended by the inquiry from Monday next week.

The report "has identified serious deficiencies in the administration of detention policy in the department of immigration," Peter Shergold, the head of the prime minister's department, said in a statement.

Howard announced Sunday that the department head, Bill Farmer, had quit to take up the post of Australia's ambassador to Indonesia.

The opposition Labor Party called for Howard to fire Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone, saying the problems of the department extended to his Cabinet. But Howard has stood by her.

The minor Greens party said the government needed a more humane immigration policy.

"Today's report leaves much of the abuses of the immigration detention policy of this government unexamined," Greens Senator Kerry Nettle said in a statement.

Extraordinary powers

Palmer found in his 195-page report that immigration department officers were authorized to use extraordinary powers.

"That they should be permitted and expected to do so without adequate training, without proper management and oversight, with poor information systems, and with no genuine checks and balances on the exercise of these powers is of great concern," Palmer said.

The report criticized the government's contract with Global Solutions Ltd., the private company that runs the detention centers. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

Cheaper MRT tickets to replace Erap cards

By Clarissa S. Batino

METRO Rail Transit 3 will start issuing today temporary tickets worth only P10 to passengers who cannot buy electronic cards following a transportation department decision to again take out of circulation the hundreds of thousands of cards bearing the face of ousted President Joseph Estrada the cash-strapped rail agency had been issuing.

MRT 3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso said the railway operator started phasing out yesterday about 400,000 "Erap cards," reportedly upon the orders of Malacañang.

MRT 3 ferries about 420,000 passengers each day. It charges a fare ranging from P9 to P15 depending on the distance. But the temporary tickets will have a flat rate of P10.

The cheaper tickets will be in circulation only until July 23 when MRT 3 is expected to take delivery of the first batch of about 100,000 new electronic cards.

Lastimoso estimated that the railway agency would issue about 20,000 temporary tickets each day to support about 300,000 worn-out but still usable cards that do not bear the photo of the deposed leader.

He admitted that the railway firm could suffer some losses because of the cheaper fares.

A transportation official said the junking of the Erap cards was a Malacañang decision.

But Lastimoso denied that the move was a Malacañang order. He said MRT 3 had used the Erap cards only out of necessity and decided to phase out the controversial cards to make sure that nobody could give their use any political color at a time when the administration was facing a deep crisis.

"We are pulling out all the Erap tickets. We have used about 400,000 since March when we started feeling a shortage," said the railway chief in an interview.

Lastimoso said there would be about 50,000 Erap cards that could not be readily phased out because these were issued as stored value tickets worth P100 each and valid for several weeks.

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a front-page headline erroneously referred to Bro. Manuel de Leon, vice chair of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP) and provincial superior of the Marist Brothers of the Schools, as a "priest." Brothers are different from priests. Unlike priests, brothers are not ordained, are not allowed to say Mass and are not allowed to administer the sacraments. Like priests, however, brothers of religious orders also take the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on Page A4 — "GMA to face suits if she quits — Salonga" — misquoted former Senate President Jovito Salonga as saying that the proposed shift to the parliamentary setup was likely to take effect in "1996 or 1997." The proposed constitutional amendment, if it pushes through, is likely to take effect in 2006 or 2007.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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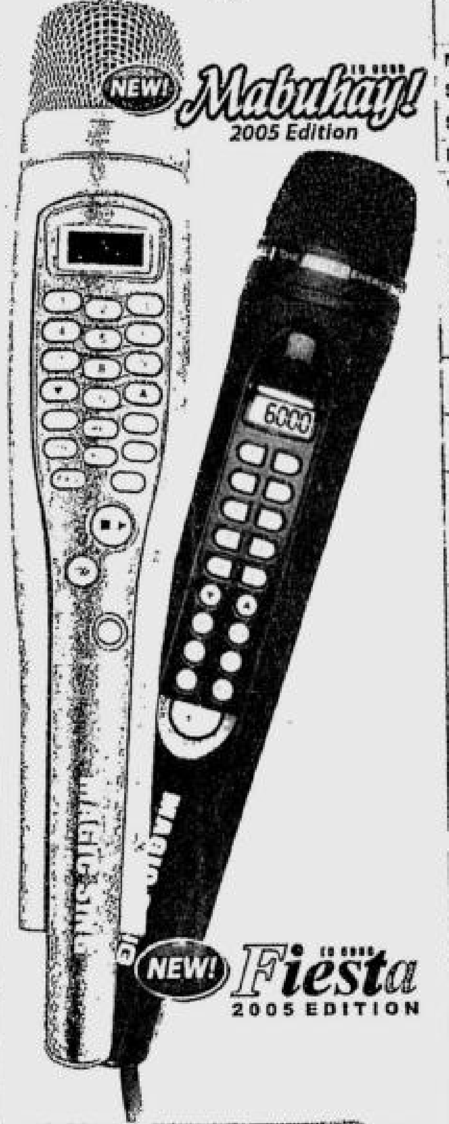

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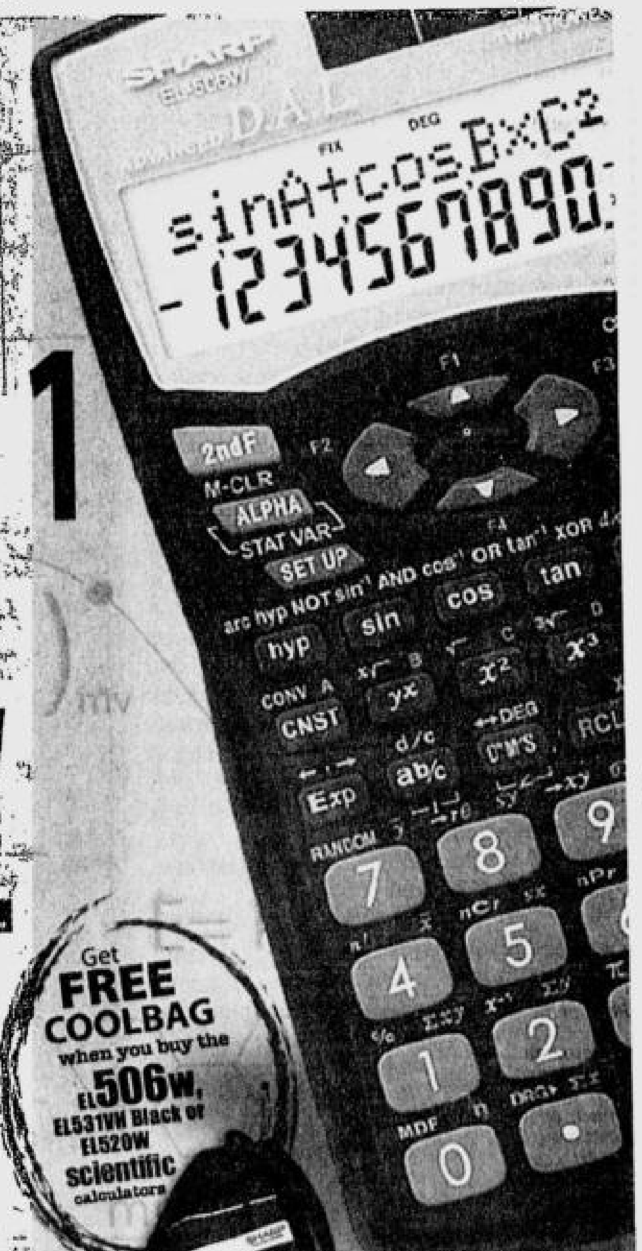

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Abducted major still alive – PAF

By Nikko Dizon

THE PHILIPPINE Air Force (PAF) yesterday said Major Neptune Elequin is still alive, 12 days after being abducted by members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Floridablanca, Pampanga.

"There is positive news that he is alive," Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla said in a phone interview.

Padilla said that units of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) continue their military operations to rescue Elequin, who is assigned to the 355th Aviation Engineering Wing based in Basa Air Base.

In a statement, the PAF said that NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal has confirmed over DZBB last Sunday that the abduction of Elequin was carried out by the NPA.

"During an interview over a radio program last Sunday, July 10, Ka Roger congratulated CPP-NPA units from Pampanga for the abduction of the unarmed Air Force Engineer while on his way to voluntarily conduct livelihood improvement projects to help residents in Floridablanca, Pampanga," the Air Force said.

Padilla said that Elequin was abducted by the NPA's Lino Blas Command.

Padilla said the Air Force has also received reports that Elequin is being treated by the NPA as a "prisoner of war."

However, Padilla stressed that the government considers the NPA as a terrorist group, which is why the Air Force had filed an abduction case against those who seized Elequin.

The Air Force said the 50-year-old Elequin had spent more than 32 years in the service, mostly with the 355th AEW.

Elequin and four others were abducted at gunpoint by some 30 "fully armed communist terrorists" at a checkpoint in Sitio Uno Malinta, Barangay Mawacat, the Air Force said.

Padilla said the Air Force major was off duty and dressed in civilian clothes when the incident took place.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 15, 2005
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Ex 11:10-12:14**
Gospel:	**Matthew 12:1-8**

It happened that Jesus walked through the wheat fields on a sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and began to pick some heads of wheat and crush them to eat the grain. When the Pharisees noticed this, they said to Jesus, "Look at your disciples; they are doing what is prohibited on the Sabbath!"

Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his men were hungry? He went into the house of God, and they ate the bread offered to God, although neither he nor his men had the right to eat it, but only the priests. And have you not read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the Temple break the Sabbath rest, yet they are not guilty?

"I tell you, there is greater than the Temple here. If you really knew the meaning of the words: It is mercy I want, not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the innocent.

"Besides the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Commentary

Jesus is attacked for letting his disciples break the kernels of wheat to eat the grain, on the Sabbath, when they are hungry. And Jesus knows his history and scriptures, reminding the Pharisees of a time when David and his men went into the temple and ate the bread offered to God because they were hungry! And he reminds them that the priests break the law on the Sabbath but they're not guilty! And Jesus proclaims that he is greater than the Temple and that it is mercy not sacrifice that God demands from us. The Son of Man, Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath and the law is given not for the sake of God, but for the sake of human beings. We are not to use the law to go after the innocent as they will do, in killing Jesus and condemning the innocent but the law is to be used to turn our hearts and make us more compassionate of those in need and more obedient to the heart of the law which makes us holy like our God.

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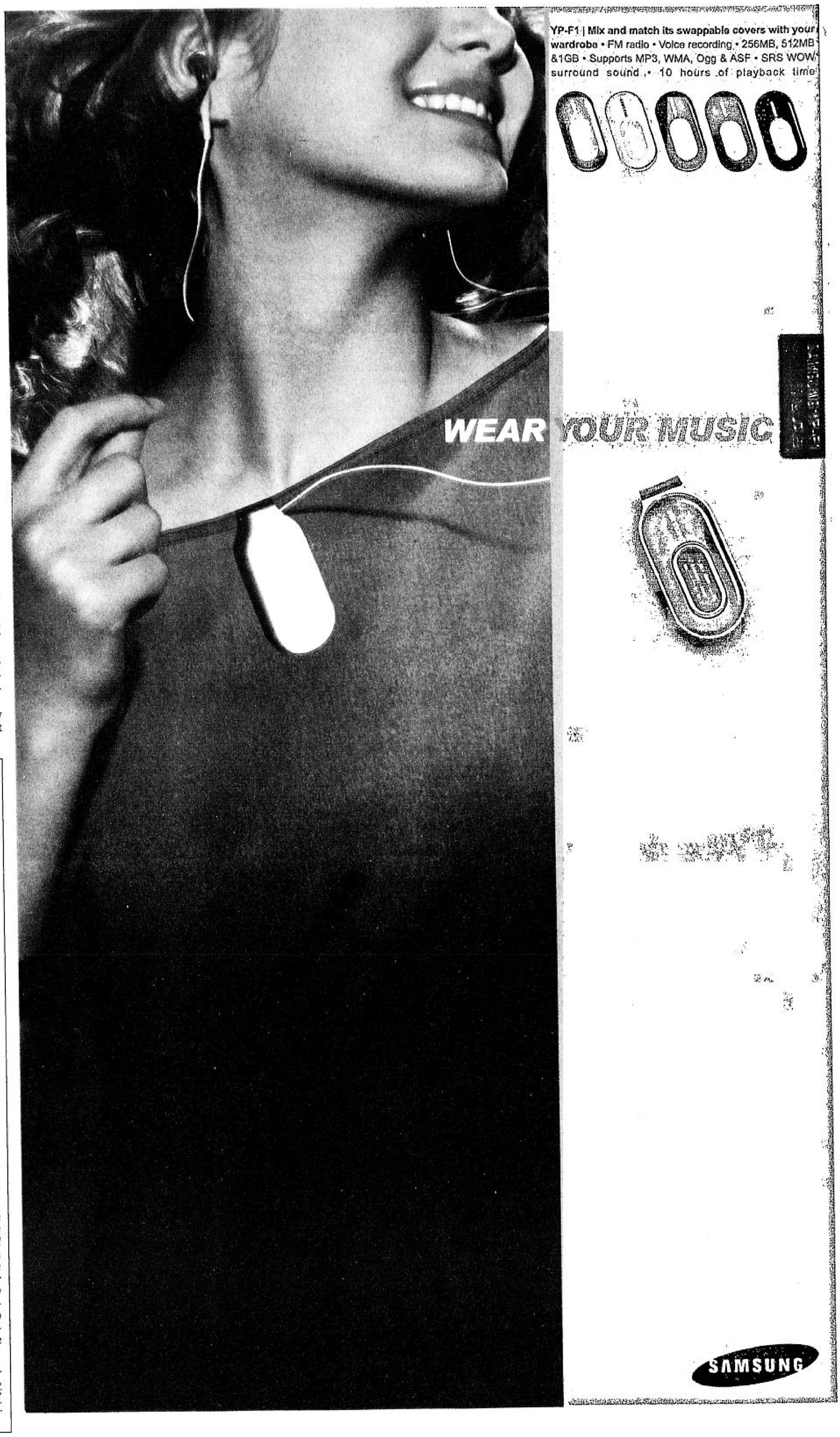
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GMA names Neri to DBM …

From page A1

Chemical Engineering from the University of the Philippines.

Ms Arroyo also named Datu Zamzamin L. Ampatuan, Muslim Affairs executive director, to the top post at the National Anti-Poverty Commission, which was vacated by Imelda Nicolas.

On Monday, the President announced the appointment of banker and economist Margarito Teves as the new finance secretary, replacing Cesar Purisima.

"It is a good team. It's the kind of team that I can leave the day-to-day affairs of government with while I work on the fundamental reforms," Ms Arroyo said in a speech before visiting Filipino-Americans in Malacañang.

Little interference

The Cabinet secretaries would get "as little political interference as possible even from me" while she concentrates on pushing for constitutional reforms, the President said.

With these appointments, only five positions vacated by the "Hyatt 10" are left to be filled up by the President – Department of Social Welfare and Development (held formerly by Dinky Soliman), Department of Agrarian Reform (Rene Villa), President Adviser on the Peace Process (Teresita Deles), Bureau of Internal Revenue (Guillermo Parayno), and Bureau of Customs (Alberto Lina).

Currently, these agencies are headed by officers in charge.

Businessmen were generally happy with the new appointments.

Responsive

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. president, said that the new economic team was a "very responsive unit" and that the President chose well considering the circumstances.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, said the President gave a premium to competency and integrity in filling up the economic posts. " She needed people who could hit the ground running," Chua said.

Donald Dee, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, said Favila was qualified for the job considering his active role in PCCI's small and medium enterprises programs and investment promotion for six years.

Ms Arroyo spoke proudly of her new Cabinet appointments, specifically Teves, de facto leader of the new economic team as finance secretary.

"The stock market went up when his name was announced," said the President, who also noted that the peso had dropped below the 56 to the dollar mark in the last few days.

Pro-poor plan

In her speech, the President highlighted the stark contrast between her administration's clear development plans and the opposition's lack of economic strategy.

"I wake up every day early and work until way past sunset because I have a plan, my 10-point pro-poor plan, and it's working," she said.

The President also reaffirmed her commitment to the implementation of the expanded value-added tax.

"Today we shall begin to plead our case in the halls of the Supreme Court so that we can get the implementation of the VAT law on track to put our fiscal house in order," the President said.

The Hyatt 10 had insinuated that Ms Arroyo had a hand in the Supreme Court's decision to issue a temporary restraining order on the VAT law on July 1, the start of its implementation.

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Bishop says he never called on the President to resign

From page A1

prelates were demanding the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Actually, I never called (for a resignation), personally," Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez told reporters yesterday as he distanced himself from the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya (KME), an alliance of mostly religious leaders, economists and businessmen clamoring for the President's ouster.

"I was just identified with a group calling for her resignation," he said.

As far as he knew, Iñiguez said Bishops Julio Xavier Labayen, prelate emeritus of Infanta, and Antonio Tobias of Novaliches were also not supporting the group's position.

On Sunday, the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) declared that it was not demanding Ms Arroyo's resignation but it reminded her not to simply dismiss the clamor.

Fixtures in press cons

Iñiguez, Labayen and Tobias were a fixture in press conferences called by the KME since July 1. They were among those who occupied the center table and answered most of the questions fielded by journalists.

The admission of Iñiguez, head of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Public Affairs, yesterday reinforced widespread belief within the Church hierarchy that he and the other prelates were not really fiercely "anti-GMA."

It also seemed to explain why Iñiguez never categorically singled out the President and clamored for her resignation in any of the media interviews attended by the INQUIRER.

Labayen and Tobias, considered "progressives" in the generally moderate CBCP, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

'Used'?

At least two Church insiders, one of them a priest, had told the INQUIRER in separate interviews that the three bishops were most likely being "used" by the KME, the group they helped found more than a year ago.

"Save for Labayen who is a known progressive, many are wondering why Tobias and Iñiguez were loud these days," one source said.

Jaime Regalario, KME chair, yesterday acknowledged that Iñiguez did not actually share the opinion of the group on the President's resignation.

But the fact that the prelate had affixed his signature on the group's official statement meant that he supported it, Regalario said. The KME had said the President had lost her "moral and legal authority" to govern.

No objection

"When we divided the house, he didn't pose any objection," Regalario said.

Besides, he said Iñiguez could not have been against Ms Arroyo's ouster because he also purportedly supported a "change in the system."

Regalario said the closest that the bishop pushed his opinion was when he suggested that the group give the President a "chance." He said the prelate floated this proposal in a meeting following Ms Arroyo's televised apology for a "lapse in judgment" on June 27 in phoning an election official during the 2004 elections.

Forgive but not forget

"He asked the group if we could give her a chance because she had already apologized," he recalled. "But the position of the group was clear—we can forgive but we cannot forget."

But how come not one of the three bishops ever came forward to clarify their position on the Arroyo crisis? Labayen, in fact, read the two KME positions in separate media briefings.

"Perhaps they were too naïve to notice that they were being used," a priest told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Iñiguez said the statement "does not necessarily represent the personal view of the person who read it."

What was clear, he said, was that the three bishops were supporting the KME's effort to convince the Arroyo administration to reform its economic polities which were purportedly subservient to foreign interests.

IÑIGUEZ PDI PHOTO

LABAYEN PDI PHOTO

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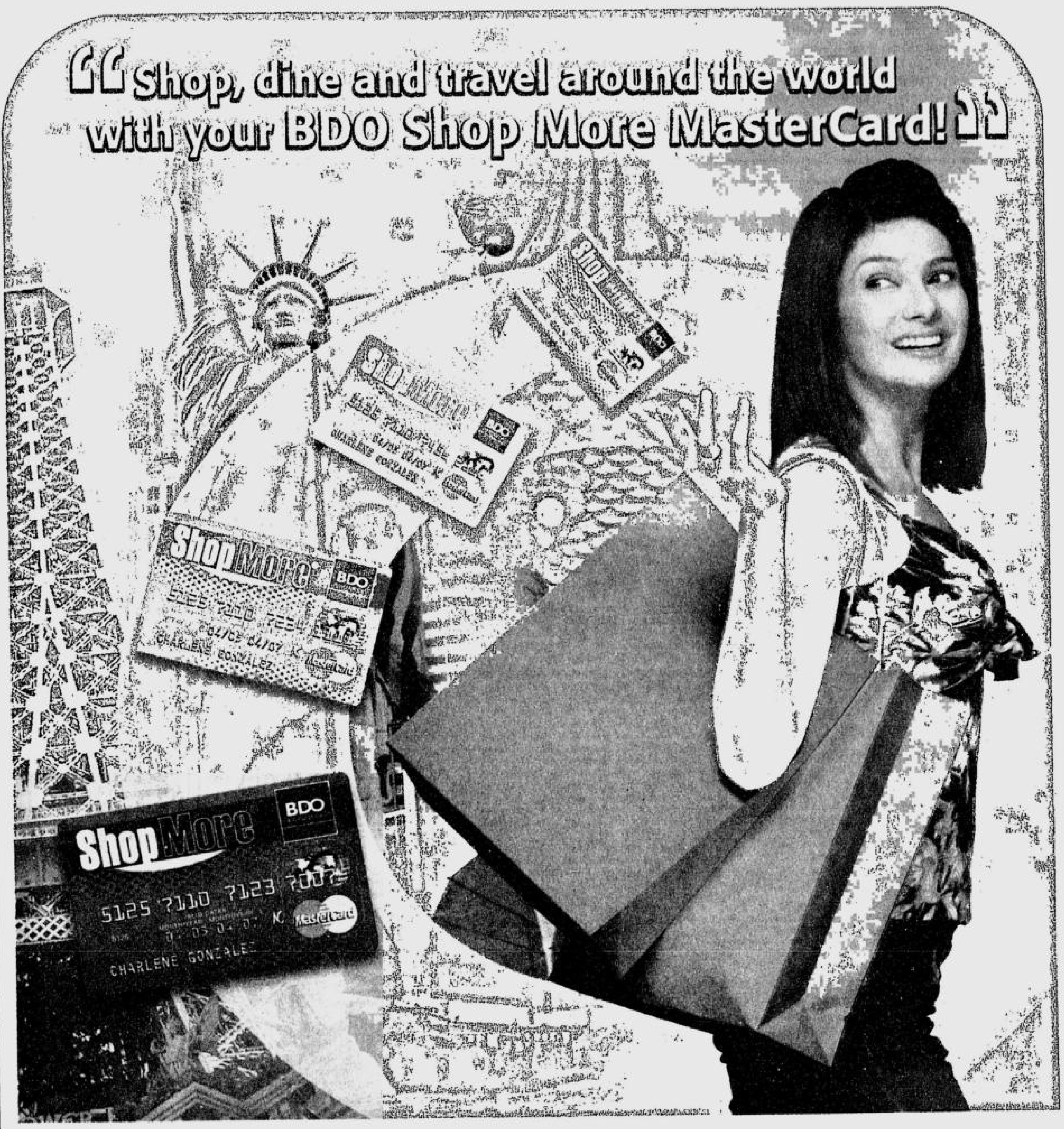
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Cory believes in prayer power

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER President Cory Aquino yesterday asked the people to pray for President Arroyo for the latter to see the light and resign.

"I continue praying for the President and I ask all Filipinos to pray for her so that we can have a swift and just resolution to our present political problem," she said.

Reacting to criticisms that she always resorted to praying whenever asked to make a stand on important issues, Aquino said people should never underestimate the value of prayer.

She said she had always believed in the power of prayer, especially during the most difficult times of her life.

Sustenance

"When we pray, we should acknowledge the weakness of the human person, no matter how high the office we hold or how great the authority we wield. The higher the office, the greater the power, the more we should pray," she stressed.

Aquino also said it was prayer that sustained her late husband, former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. in prison during the Martial Law regime, and also her regime from a series of coup d'etats after taking over the presidency from Ferdinand Marcos who was ousted by people power in 1986.

"It wasn't just prayers of course. Grace needs good works to effect redemption. Government is not just about getting things done, whatever they are. They are about getting the right thing done, for the right reasons and with the right people," she added.

SAGUISAG: You have no right

AQUINO: No comment

GONZALEZ: I'm sorry

Cory-Kris defenders slam Gonzalez

From page A1

Dinky Soliman, and that they could be considered obstruction of justice, which could be added to the Articles of Impeachment against Ms Arroyo.

Locsin, Aquino's former press secretary, said that Gonzalez's statement about Kris was boorish.

"It is boorish for him to make such a statement. Kris can take care of herself. She's one of the country's richest women because of her career and is a very good mother," Locsin said.

"For a while I thought his comments could provide comic relief and give us some laughs, but as (Taguig-Pateros) Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano pointed out, if we put his statement in black and white, these could become a basis for impeachment," Locsin added.

Cory: No comment

Aquino yesterday shrugged off Gonzalez's statement. Speaking after praying at the chapel of St. Scholastica's College in Manila, she refused to comment on Gonzalez's statement.

Later in the day, her spokesperson, Ma. Lourdes Sytangco, quoted Aquino as saying "we're praying for Secretary Gonzalez."

"If I hurt them, I am sorry."

Gonzalez yesterday apologized to the former President and her daughter Kris.

Told that he had been heavily criticized by women's group, Gonzalez replied: "What can I do? I'm not a woman-hater. Like you, I also love women."

Who needs enemies?

With an ally like him, Ms Arroyo does not need enemies.

This was what Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino said as he and other lawmakers urged President Arroyo to sack Gonzalez before he finally sinks the administration ship.

Butz Aquino, the former President's brother-in-law, said that even the reviled Marcos dictatorship did not have a lackey that would "sink as low" as the justice secretary in publicly going after its critics.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. told Gonzalez to stick to issues and "stop disparaging" Cory Aquino for joining the clamor for Ms Arroyo to resign.

"Secretary Gonzalez should not divert attention from President Arroyo's misdeeds by getting personal with Cory. Or else things become nasty and fit for gossip," Pimentel said in a press statement.

More enemies

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras said that instead of helping the President, Gonzalez was making "more new enemies" for Ms Arroyo, particularly among women.

Women's groups had earlier criticized Gonzalez for saying that actress Susan Roces, the widow of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., was too beautiful to land in jail and that she was just a "griping widow" when she delivered a powerful speech calling for Ms Arroyo to resign.

"I don't remember a lackey during the Marcos times who was as vulgar and who would sink as low as somebody like that. I will not dignify his statement. It only shows how desperate they have become," Butz Aquino added.

Inflammatory

Paras said that while the President had called for sobriety, Gonzalez was further inflaming the hearts and minds of her critics while alienating the public.

KRIS AQUINO: Lips sealed

"What good is he doing for the President? He is being disrespectful to women and is making more enemies for the administration," he said.

Swaying the undecided

Paras said that Gonzalez's statements might even sway the undecided among the public into joining the opposition while hardening the opposition's resolve to have Ms Arroyo removed from Malacañang.

"Cory did not even join the (Makati) rally (on Wednesday). But with his insults, she might decide to finally go to the streets. Those sympathetic to Cory might even join the main opposition," he said.

Tears

Saguisag also said in his letter, "You may condemn Kris as your ethical inferior, as just another pretty girl. We are free today partly because of her."

Saguisag was referring to the time when Kris, then a little girl in the 1970's, campaigned for the opposition led by her detained father.

"What you say brings tears to those of us, you among them, who toiled, fought and struggled; only for you to become so arrogant now that you are in power," Saguisag said.

Comrades in arms

Both Saguisag and Gonzalez formed part of the activist opposition that openly criticized the Marcos dictatorship during martial law and the aftermath of the assassination of Ninoy Aquino in 1983 until the first Edsa in 1986.

Gonzalez was appointed Ombudsman during the Aquino administration.

Kris, a movie actress and television personality, has had highly publicized relationships with movie actors. She's now involved with professional basketball player James Yap.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Gonzalez reiterated that he was only stating a fact when he said it was he who introduced the Aquinos to the executives of Regal Films, where he used to serve as company lawyer.

He said the Aquinos were then planning to do a movie on the life of former communist leader Bernabe "Dante" Buscayno.

But showbiz insiders say that it was the late Lourdes Carvajal, better known as Inday Badiday, the "queen of movie talk shows" who first introduced Kris to the world of entertainment when she guested Kris on her highly rated talk show even before Edsa I. *With a report from Armand Nocum*

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MONDAY TO TUESDAY, JULY 18-19, 2005
QUEZON CITY
BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (MON., 07/18/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (TUE., 07/19/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MESA 21F
Portion of Visayan Ave. and Unang Hakbang St. from Meralco-Sta. Mesa substation to and including portion of Cordillera and N. Ramirez Sts. in Bgy. San Isidro.
BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON., 07/18/05) AND 5:30AM (TUE., 07/19/05) PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MESA 21F
Portion of N. Ramirez St. from Mata sa Nayon St. to E. Rodriquez Sr. Ave. including Mabuhay Rotonda in Bgy. Don Manuel.
REASON: Replacement of rotten cross arm along N. Ramirez St. in Bgy. Don Manuel, Quezon City.

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2005
QUEZON CITY (U. P. DILIMAN)
BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS UP-II 11HU AND 12HU
Portion of Katipunan Ave. from near Magsaysay Ave. to Quirino Ave. including School of Economics and College of Business Administration.Portion of Quirino Ave., Pardo de Tavera St. and T. M. Kalaw Road from Katipunan Ave. to University Ave. including Benitez Hall, Gonzales Hall, Alonzo Hall, Sampaguita Residence Hall, Palma Hall, Quezon Hall, College of Home Economics and College of Law.
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco - UP II substation.
BULACAN (NORZAGARAY AND SAN JOSE DEL MONTE)
BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45PM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS SAPANG PALAY 32YO, 33YO AND 34YO
Mardeka Marble, Towerville, City Homes Builders, Igay Cockpit, Sapang Palay National High School, Bgys. Aniban, Paltoc, San Mateo, Sto. Cristo, San Pedro, Sabitang Kampana, Dulong Bayan and Sitio Gulod in San Jose del Monte.
Minuyan Marble, Mariane Homes, Guillen Marble, Sanctuario de Paz Memorial Park, Bgys. Bigte, Tigbe, Minuyan and Bitungol in Norzagaray.
BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT SAN JOSE 41SJ - ANGAT 42AG; AND PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT STA. MARIA 425YU
Republic Aggregates Compound in Bgy. Hulo, Norzagaray. Portion of Roadside View Subd. in Bgy. Poblacion, Norzagaray.
REASON: TransCo maintenance work along San Jose-Angat 34.5 kV line.
LAGUNA (LUISIANA)
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 5:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOTOCAN 41D
The whole town of Luisiana.
REASON: Conversion of 6.24 kV electric system to 34.5 kV electric system in the whole town of Luisiana, Laguna.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, JULY 19-20, 2005
RIZAL PROVINCE (ANTIPOLO)
BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE., 07/19/05) AND 4:00AM (WED., 07/20/05)- PORTION OF CIRCUIT MASINAG 40WN
Along Oliveros St. from B. Soliven St. to and including Ma. Corazon Subd. and Elmar Village in Bgy. Cupang.
REASON: Maintenance work along Oliveros St. in Bgy. Cupang, Antipolo, Rizal Province.
BULACAN (MEYCAUAYAN)
BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE., 07/19/05) AND 4:30AM (WED., 07/20/05)- PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOCAUE 47YE
Portion of McArthur Highway from McDonald's to Contreras St. including N. Santos St. and Meycauayan Institute in Bgys. Calvario and Banga.
REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and line rehabilitation works along McArthur Highway in Meycauayan, Bulacan.

WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY, JULY 20-21, 2005
PASIG CITY AND TAGUIG CITY
BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (WED., 07/20/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:30AM AND 7:00AM (THU., 07/21/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAGUIG 49ZL
Portion of Dr A. Natividad Ave. (Tipas - Napindan Road) from near Elizco Road to near Hon. Alfonso Sandoval Ave. including CAPASCO Compound, C & C Commercial and Italit Construction and Devt. Corp. in Bgys. Ibayo Tipas and Napindan, Taguig City.
BETWEEN 11:00PM (WED., 07/20/05) AND 7:00AM (THU., 07/21/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TAGUIG 46ZL, 49ZL AND 50ZL
Portion of Elizco Road and Dr. A. Natividad Ave. (Tipas - Napindan Road) from Meralco-Taguig substation to near Pasig - Taytay - Taguig boundary including Elitool, Chemical Industries of the Phils., Polyphospate Compound in Bgy. Kalawaan, Pasig City; Winning Enterprises, Martian Steel and Pilipinas YTK in Bgy. Ibayo Tipas, Taguig City.
REASON: Reconductoring work along Elizco Road in Bgy. Ibayo Tipas, Taguig City.
QUEZON CITY
BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (WED., 07/20/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (THU., 07/21/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MESA 22F
Portion of Santol St. from Meralco-Sta. Mesa substation to and including Sociego, Escoda, E. Vallejo, R. D. Santos, L. Roces, T. Pinpin, P. H. de Talavera, San Cristobal, Madias-as, Concepcion, Landargun, Puray and Casiama Sts. in Bgys. Galas, Sto. Niño and Santol.
BETWEEN 11:30PM (WED., 07/20/05) AND 4:30AM (THU., 07/21/05)- PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MESA 22F
Portion of Aurora Blvd. from T. Arguelles St. (Broxton Hill) to and including UERM Memorial Medical Center and NGK Automotive Parts, Inc. in Bgy. Doña Imelda.
REASON: Various maintenance work along Aurora Blvd. cor. G. Araneta Ave. in Quezon City.

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2005
BULACAN (SAN ILDEFONSO AND SAN MIGUEL)
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT SAN MIGUEL 301YN
Bgys. San Agustin, Batasan Matanda, Batasan A, Batasan B, Salapungan, Magumbali, Lourdez, Mandili, Cauayang Bugtong, Tagulod, Mandile, Salangan, Barangca, Mapanique, Canlang, Anlatan, Makapilapil, Makapili and Sapang Putol in San Ildefonso.
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS SAN MIGUEL 33YN, 34YN AND 35YN
Bgys. Salangan, Canlang, Anlatan, Makapilapil, Sta. Catalina Matanda, Sta. Catalina Bata, Nabaong Carlan, Mataas na Parang, San Juan, Sapang Putol, Pinaod, Sumandig, Pala-pala, Gabihan, Talen, Baguit, Sapang Dayap, Basuit, Sapang Putik, Akle, Casalat, Palanas, Narra, Alagao and Laog in San Ildefonso.
Portion of Cagayan Valley Road from Meralco-San Miguel substation to and including Bgy. Buluallo, Tagulis, Sacdalan, Bantog, Pasong Manga, Baluarte, Pulang Buli, Bagong Pagasa, Salakot, Kawayang Bugtong, Sakiot, Cambio, King Kabayo, Kinamatayang Kabayo, Pinambaran, Mandile, Bagong Silang, Mayantoc, Kamias, Cabio, Sta. Lucia, Buliran, Partida, Balukok, Balaong, Malibay, Catapacan Hills, Calumpang, Buliban, Tartaro, Masalipit, Sibul, Madlum and Balite in San Miguel.
Along Pres. Magsaysay Road from Meralco-San Miguel substation to and including Bgys. Biak-Na-Bato, Muzon, Pakalag, Pulong Bayabas, Balaong, Masalipit, Tibagan, Libangan, San Vicente, San Jose, Labne and Sta. Rita in San Miguel.
REASON: Maintenance work inside Meralco-San Miguel substation.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, JULY 21-22, 2005
CALOOCAN CITY - NORTH; QUEZON CITY; AND VALENZUELA CITY
BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (THU., 07/21/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM (FRI., 07/22/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS KAYBIGA 45YX AND 425YX
Portion of Gen. Luis Ave. from Kaypack to near Banco De Oro including P. Dela Cruz St. in Bgy. Kaybiga, Caloocan City - North.
Along P. Dela Cruz St. from Gen. Luis Ave. in Kaybiga, Caloocan City - North to Tatalon St. in Bgy. Ugong, Valenzuela City including Kopa Metal Industry, Topspin Textile Mills, Villa Angelica Subd., San Lorenzo Industrial Subd., Frisco Foundry, Harman Food, Zesto Corp., Ever Emporium Warehouse, Uni-pel Inds., Standard Aluminum Corp., Genknit Mfg., Prime Gold Mfg., Rogeo Metalfab Inds., Wonder Steel, Grand Asia Metal, Five Star Industrial Cpd. in Sitio Gitna, Bgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Quezon City; Aspen Paper Products, Cygnus Industries, Kudos Metal, Crayons Processing Inc., Int'l Stainless Products, Lucky Plastic, Nippon Promac, Insulite Mfg., Monaco Mfg., Uniworld Processing Center, Kwang Yang Mfg., Elephant Ind. Corp., MGM Industrial Compound in Sitio Gitna, Caloocan City; and Kopez Mfg. in Bgy. Ugong, Valenzuela City.
BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 07/21/05) AND 5:00AM (FRI., 07/22/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS KAYBIGA 45YX AND 425YX
Portion of Gen. Luis Ave. from Banco De Oro to and including A. Samonte St. in Bgy. Kaybiga, Caloocan City and Bgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Quezon City.
REASON: Retirement of wood pole along Gen. Luis St. in Bgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Quezon City.
MANILA (QUIAPO)
BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (THU., 07/21/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:30AM AND 7:00AM (FRI., 07/22/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TEGEN 513B
Portion of J. Nepomuceno, Padilla, Carlos Palanca Sr., P. Casal Ext., Legarda and Mendoza Sts. from Meralco-Tegen substation to C. M. Recto Ave. (Azcarraga) including Centro Escolar University, San Beda College, Chowking-Hidalgo, Manila Cartimar Shopping Center, San Sebastian College, MWSS, La Tondeña, Technological Institute of the Phils., Current Events Digest, PLDT, St. Jude Catholic Church, St. Jude Catholic School, San Diego Fishery, The National Teachers College, DPWH-Quiapo Pumping Station, Manuel L. Quezon University-High School, Engineering Reviewer of the Phils., Genuino Ice Plant, V. Mapa High School, Universal Mills, College of the Holy Spirit, DSWD, Orient Pearl Shopping Arcade, STI College-Recto and La Consolacion College.
BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 07/21/05) AND 7:00AM (FRI., 07/22/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TEGEN 513B
Portion of C. M. Recto Ave. (Azcarraga) from near Mendiola St. to Sergio H. Loyola St. (Lepanto) including University of the East-Auditorium, Jollibee-Recto, Pizza Hut-Recto, KFC-Recto and McDonald's-Recto.
REASON: Various maintenance work along C. M. Recto Ave. in Quiapo, Manila.

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, JULY 22-23, 2005
BULACAN
BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (FRI., 07/22/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM (SAT., 07/23/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. MARIA 42YU AND 423YU
Portion of McArthur Highway from Burol Provincial Road to and including International Chemical Industries in Guiguinto; Garcia Rice Mill, STI College and Rocka Executive Village in Balagtas.
BETWEEN 11:00PM (FRI., 07/22/05) AND 5:00AM (SAT., 07/23/05) - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT BALAGTAS 13YA; AND PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. MARIA 42YU AND 423YU
Portion of McArthur Highway from Meralco-Balagtas substation to and including Bo. Bunlo, Bgys. Anlipona, Biñang, Sandico, Gomez, Burgos, Zamora, A. Bonifacio, J. P. Rizal, Mabini, A. Luna, Bambang Sts., Bos. Igulot, Wakas, Sulucan and Bambang in Bocaue.
Portion of McArthur Highway from near Bgy. Biñang 1 to and including Bulacan State University, Mighty Corp., Sun King Electronics, Manhattan Enterprises, Car-World Inc., Bulacan Sports Complex, DJ Paradise Resort, Jeet Steel Corp., Holy Spirit Academy of Malolos, Santol, Look Sts. and Bgy. Tabang in Malolos; St. Paul College, Far East Broadcasting, Angeles Rice Mill, Asian Globe Timber Corp., TLJ Rice Mill, PSS Agro-Industrial Corp. in Bocaue; Filipino Grain Marketing, AA Mendoza Rice & Palay Trading, Lim Eng Bio Lumber, Pascual Laboratories, ABC Plastic Mfg., Metec Smelter, Glorious Sun Fashion Garments, Math Agro Corp., South Supermarket, Corazon de Jesus Subd., Cefel's Park Subd. in Balagtas. Ho Fon Metal Mfg., Ochavillo Farms, Ilang-ilang, Tabang, Krus Sts., Barrio Road, Estrella Village, Maunlad Homes, Masagana Homes Subd., Phil Allied Xiamen, Great Asian Foods, Herrera Rice Mill, Primavera Rice Mill, Guiguinto Integrated Wood, Pricewell Industries, Agro Filipino, Crown Asia Compounders, Uni Leather Country Corp., Genuino Ice Plant, R. I. S. Industrial Compound, Flavor Food Products, Rocka Phase I, North Bel-Air Subd., Provincial Action Center Special Bliss Project, Immaculate Conception Seminary, St. Lorraine Village, Bgys. Tabe, Malis, Tuktukan, Ilang-ilang and Panginay in Guiguinto.
Along Mercado, Bantayan, Matungao, Mambog, San Nicolas, Bagumbayan and Daang Bato Sts from near McArthur Highway to and including Bgys Taliptip, Perez, Sikap, Bambang, Sta. Ines, Sta. Ana, Bagumbayan, Matungao, Maysantol, Balubad, San Nicolas, Pitpitan, Angelita Vill., Ano Sevela Sabas Valeriano, Col. Braulio Miguel, Estanquillo Sts., Assumption Academy, Bulacan Municipal Hall, Bulacan Academy, Gregorio del Pilar District Hospital, Jingle Corp. in Bulacan; Triple Junction Subd., Alphatech, Philippine Integrated Leather Industries, Expo Rubber, Sentry Window Hardware, Texicon Agrichem Corp., Shoyu Food Corp., Allswell Plastic and Belawire Phils. in Guiguinto.
REASONS: 1. Relocation of poles along McArthur Highway in Guiguinto, Bulacan affected by DPWH road-widening project.
2. Maintenance work inside Meralco-Balagtas substation.

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2005
MANILA (STA. MESA AND SAN MIGUEL)
BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 7:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:30PM AND 3:00PM - PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT NORTH PORT 46H - TEGEN 46B - SAMPALOC 43K-45K
Portion of Nagtahan and Aceite Sts. from Meralco-Tegen substation to Valencia St. including Parade, Engineer Sts., Malacañang Communications Center and NICA in San Miguel.
Portion of Jose Abad Santos, C. de Dios Sts., Ramon Magsaysay Blvd. and Martin St. from Pureza St. to near Arevalo St. including C. Arellano, M. Araullo, C de Dios Sts., Polytechnic University of the Philippines (Jasmin Bldg. & Printing Bldg.), EARIST - ITC, Pio del Pilar Elem. School, Bennel Dormitory, Intl. Ping Ming and Traffic Engineering Center in Sta. Mesa.
REASON: Replacement of rotten poles at NFA compound near Valencia St. in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2005
MANILA (PACO & STA. ANA)
BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:45PM AND 3:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS STA. ANA 12VN AND 13VN; AND PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. ANA 17VN, 18VN AND 19VN
Portion of Pedro Gil St. (Herran), Plaza Felipe, G. Calderon and Old Panaderos Sts. from near Angel Linao St. (Dart) to New Panaderos St. including Fabie Estate, Dr. Carreon, Tejeron, Suter, Embarcadero, Lamayan, Isabel, Sta. Clara Sts., Trinity Woman and Child Center, Philippine Wallboard Corp., St. Anne's Academy, Sta. Ana Church, Unioil in Punta, Sta. Ana; Paz, Santiago, Lopez Jaena, Lanuza, Merced, Pedrigon and Union Sts. in Paco.
Portion of J. Posadas and Felix Manalo Sts. (A. Bautista) from near Marcelo Steel Compound to and including E. Jorge, J. Esguerra, Kalahi, Mt. Mayon Sts., Roads 5, 6 and 7 in Punta, Sta. Ana.
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco-Sta. Ana substation.
BULACAN (BOCAUE)
BETWEEN 12:00NN AND 5:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MARIA 424YU
The whole of Intercity Industrial Estate in Bo. Wakas.
REASON: Cleaning, replacement and washing of contaminated line devices at Intercity Industrial Estate in Bo. Wakas, Bocaue, Bulacan.

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Northrail head, solon say Drilon was misinformed

SENATE President Franklin Drilon is "grossly misinformed" on the NorthRail project "being built and financed by the Chinese government," Northrail president Jose Cortes and Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy said yesterday.

The two, in a press statement, warned that Drilon's "irresponsible charges" might drive the Chinese government to abandon the railway project from Manila to Malolos, Bulacan to Clark Field in Pampanga and eventually to the Ilocos Region.

A day after he announced his break with President Macapagal-Arroyo by calling on her to resign, Drilon threatened to spill the beans of what he called a grossly overpriced contract for the railway system.

Cortes said the government-to-government 32-km railway agreement involves a contract price per kilometer of about P366 million not P880 million as Drilon alleged, because it is a two-track railway system.

"This is effectively 64 kilometers of railway track since it is double tracked and not a one-lane 32-km railway," Cortes said.

"This is not rehabilitation but a totally new railway system," Cortes added. Drilon had said the project would be using the old railways.

Uy, chair of the House bases conversion committee, said Drilon and other critics of the NorthRail project were being dishonest for not clarifying that it is a double-lane and not a single-lane rail system that is being constructed .

Cortes said the preliminary engineering works on the NorthRail project have started.

The Caloocan-Valenzuela section has been cleared of informal settlers and operations are ongoing to clear the right of way from Meycauayan to Malolos, he added.

The two said the NorthRail project was announced during President Arroyo's state visit to China last year and during Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Manila this year to celebrate 30 years of Philippine-Chinese diplomatic relations.

China is known globally as having the most efficient and cheapest railway system servicing the world's largest population of 1.3 billion, they said.

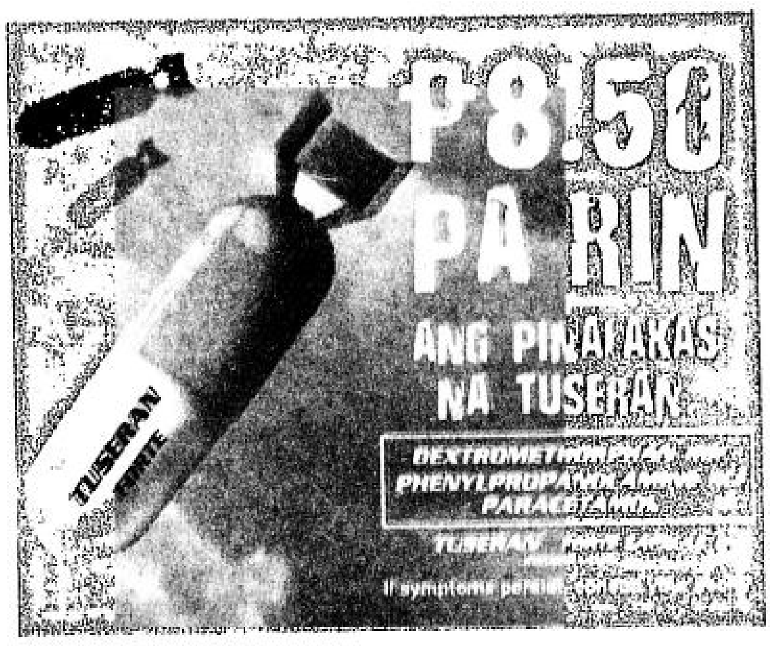
Uy and Cortes said the NorthRail project is the Chinese government's biggest assistance project in Southeast Asia, which is financed at 20 years with three percent interest.

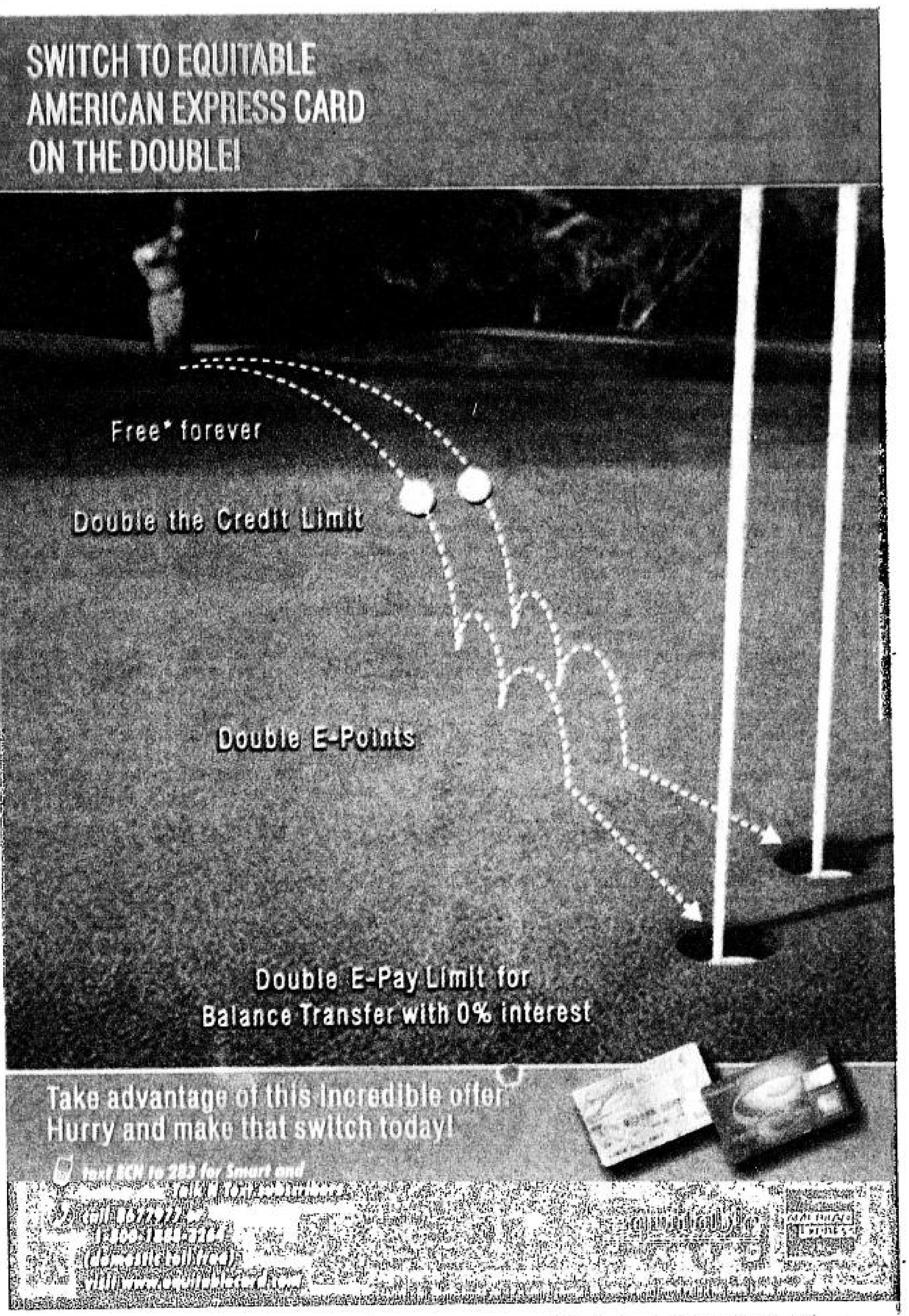
5 new Inquirer scholars picked

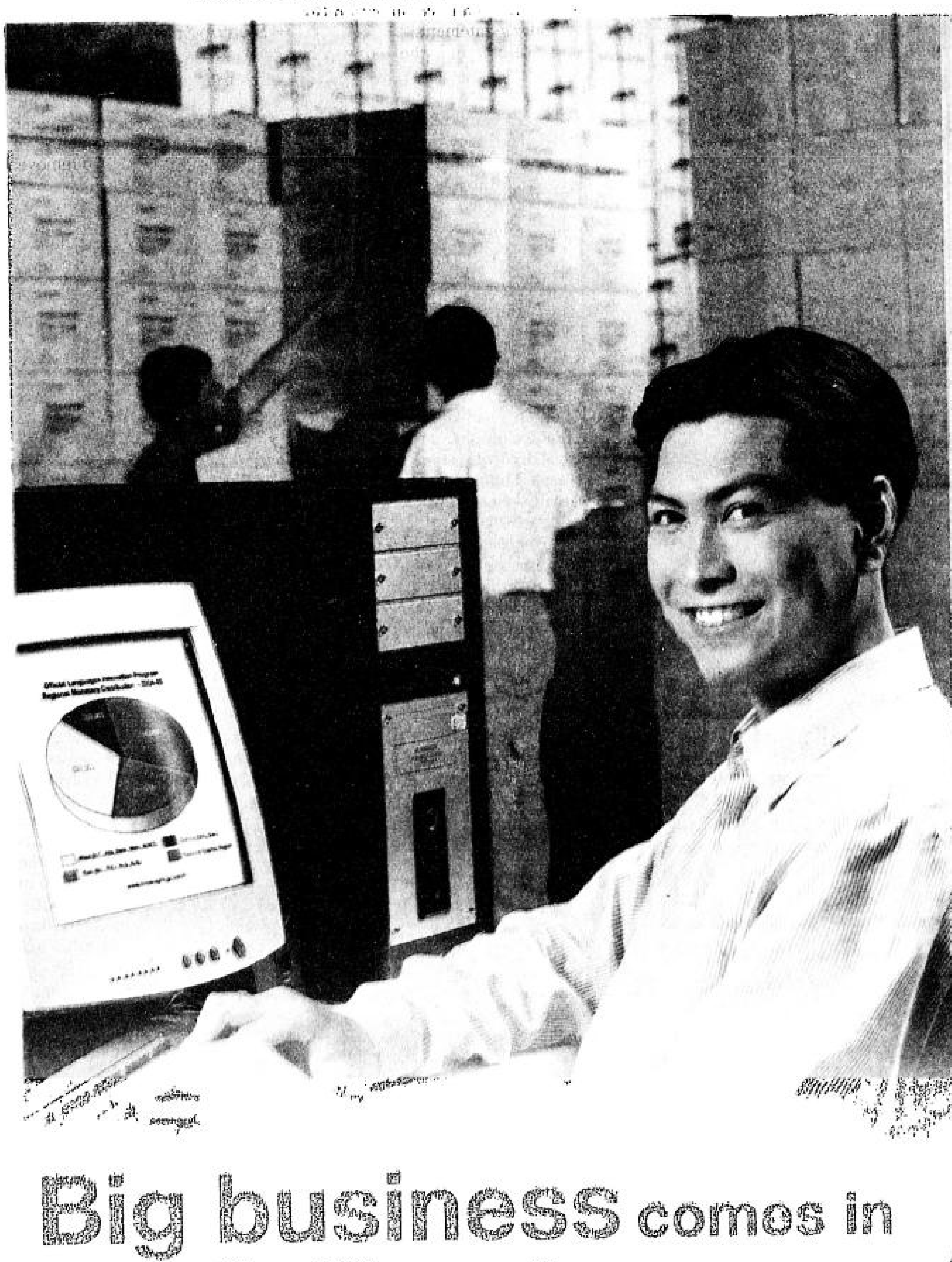
FIVE Journalism juniors at the University of the Philippines in Diliman have been chosen INQUIRER University Scholars for the schoolyears 2005-2007, Alexandra P. Romualdez, PDI president and CEO, said yesterday.

The scholars are Bernadette Joy A. Lopez of Bagong Ilog, Pasig City; Alda Franz C. Quodala of Cubao, Quezon City; Ma. Erika Pilar Sauler of Krus na Ligas, Diliman, Quezon City; Jerald T. Uy of Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City; and Eliza A. Victoria of Pook Palaris, UP Diliman.

For two schoolyears the INQUIRER will pay for their tuition and other fees and give them a P1,000 yearly allowance for books and school supplies and a monthly stipend of P500.







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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Police identify mastermind behind bombings in London

LONDON—British police have identified the man thought to be the mastermind behind last week's bombings in London in which at least 52 people died, a report said on Thursday.

The British-born man in his 30s, of Pakistani origin, arrived at a British port last month and left the country again the day before Thursday's attacks, The Times newspaper reported.

The four suspected suicide bombers, three of whom have been identified by newspapers, were also Britons of Pakistani origin.

According to The Times, security sources believe the mastermind was involved in previous terror operations and has links with followers of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida extremist group in the United States.

He is thought to have visited the bombers in their home city of Leeds, northern England, and identified targets on the London Underground rail subway system where three of the four bombs exploded, the paper said.

Security sources also said he was likely to have trained the recruits in how to trigger their rucksack-carried bombs, three of which went off almost simultaneously at around 8:50 a.m., at the peak of last Thursday's morning rush hour.

Police have reportedly switched their investigation towards seeking the mastermind of the bombings since learning that the four bombers killed themselves in the attacks.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke said earlier Wednesday that the aim was now "to attack the people who are driving, organizing and manipulating" bombers.

According to The Times newspaper on Thursday, police are also seeking a possible fifth member of the bombers' terror cell, who was also seen at Luton station, north of London, from where the attackers traveled into the capital.

The man, also believed to be of Pakistani origin, could still be at large in London, the paper said.

Police additionally want to interview an Egyptian-born university lecturer who was teaching in Leeds until a few weeks ago.

According to The Sun newspaper, the man, who it named as 33-year-old Magdi El-Nashar, was studying for a biochemistry doctorate at Leeds University and disappeared just before the attacks, it is thought to Egypt.

At least two of the bombers had links to his rented flat, which is one of six addresses in and around Leeds raided by police on Tuesday morning, the report added. *AFP*

675,000 people of Pakistani origin live in Britain

LONDON—Britain's Pakistani community, of which the four suspected London suicide bombers were members, is one of the country's largest and also most economically deprived ethnic groups.

Around 675,000 people of Pakistani origin live in Britain, more than half of the country's South Asian-origin population.

The first generation of immigrants arrived from the 1950s, mainly to take manual jobs in the then-thriving economy of their home nation's former colonial ruler.

Despite the decades it has been established, the Pakistani community—the largest chunk of Britain's 1.5-million-strong Muslim community—tends to be poorer and less well educated than the national average.

Just 30 percent of Pakistani students gain the standard measure of good school leaving grades, five GCSE exam passes, compared with 50 percent in the general population, according to government figures.

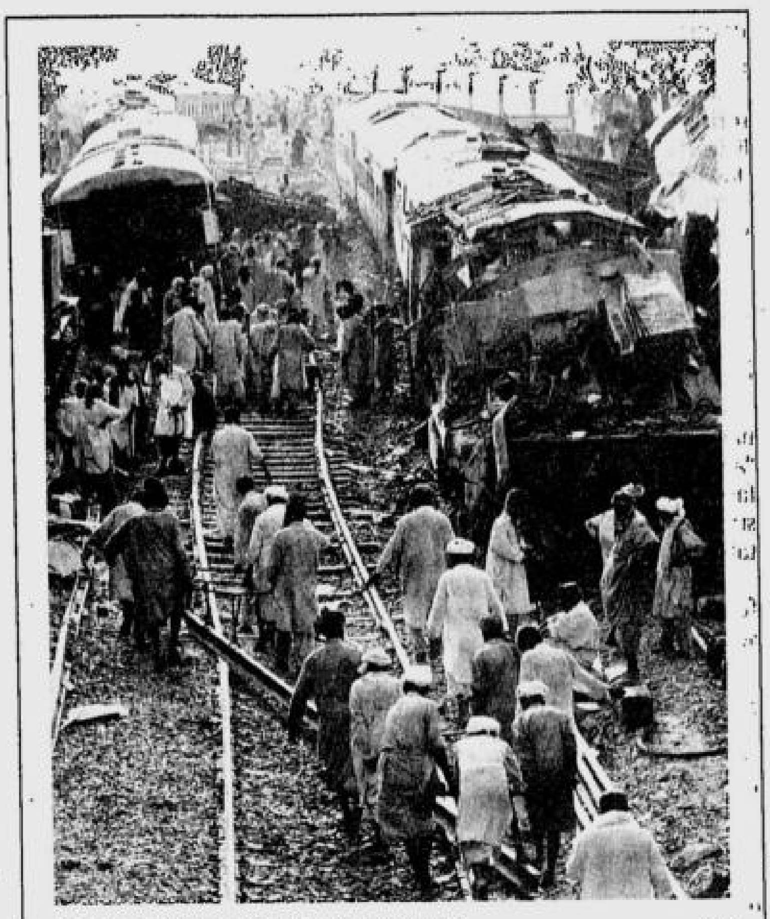
One report says that 80 percent of ethnic Pakistanis and Bangladeshis live in households with incomes below half of the national average.

The revelation that the suicide bombers who caused at least 52 deaths on three subway trains and a bus in London last Thursday were second-generation Pakistani immigrants has sent shockwaves through the community.

Many newspapers have focused on the fact that the mainly young bombers were far more westernized than their immigrant parents, and in many ways were indistinguishable from youths from any other community.

"They were four ordinary British lads from ordinary British homes who loved football and girls," the Daily Mirror tabloid noted.

"So why did they become the suicide murderers?" *AFP*



DEADLIEST TRAIN DISASTER
Pakistani workers clear the wreckage of carriages from three trains in Ghotki, some 430 kms northeast of Karachi, July 14. Relatives desperately sought news of their missing loved ones a day after at least 133 people died in Pakistan's deadliest train disaster for one and a half decades, when three trains collided at a station in the southern town of Ghotki. AFP

Attacks killed 800 Iraqi civilians, cops each month

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Iraqi civilians and police officers died at a rate of more than 800 a month between August and May, according to figures released in June by the Interior Ministry.

In response to questions from The New York Times, the ministry said that 8,175 Iraqis were killed by insurgents in the 10 months that ended May 31. The ministry did not give detailed figures for the months before August 2004, nor did it provide a breakdown of the figures, which do not include either Iraqi soldiers or civilians killed during American military operations.

While the figures were not broken down month by month, it has been clear since the government of Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari took over after the Jan. 30 election that the insurgency is taking an increasing toll, killing Iraqi civilians and security workers at a faster rate.

In June, the interior minister, Bayan Jabr, told reporters that insurgents had killed about 12,000 Iraqis since the start of the American occupation—a figure officials have emphasized is approximate—an average monthly toll of about 500.

The issue of civilian deaths in Iraq has been a delicate one, with some contending that the Bush administration and the Pentagon have deliberately avoided body counts to deprive their critics of a potent argument against the war. Estimates have ranged from the 12,000 offered by Mr. Jabr to as many as 100,000 in a widely reported study last year. The new figures are likely to add to that debate.

The figures, released by e-mail through an American official after multiple requests, are a significant milestone, for while the Iraqi government tallies Iraqi deaths, figures on the overall totals have been tightly guarded. But the numbers do not account for civilian deaths caused by American and Iraqi soldiers in military offensives, at checkpoints or on raids.

"It's an important number, it's a big deal," said Marc Garlasco, senior military analyst at Human Rights Watch in New York. "It shows the toll Iraqi civilians are paying for their freedoms."

Even attacks with small death counts tear through the lives of many people. A suicide car bomb at a military checkpoint on June 19 in Tikrit killed Alaa Bahnam Shamoun, 28, who was delivering sodas and lunch with his brother, Qusay. The brothers' truck was rear ended, and when Mr. Shamoun got out to speak with the driver the man blew himself up. Qusay survived, but suffered severe burns on his face and torso. He had married just 28 days before.

When Mr. Shamoun's wife saw him in a hospital in Baghdad, she barely recognized him. The family did not tell him his brother was dead, and they changed out of black mourning clothes into bright colors every time they visited him in the hospital.

"I'm still in my honeymoon and I have this," Mr. Shamoun's wife, Noha Rafail, 21, said outside his hospital room. "This is the life we have."
New York Times News Service

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Baguio	Aug. 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7	Oct. 22
Manila	Aug. 5, 12,19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7, 14	Oct. 27

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Americans losing faith in Bush, survey suggests

WASHINGTON—A majority of Americans give President George W. Bush low marks for being "honest and straightforward," but they agree with him in considering Iraq as the front line in the war against terrorism, according to a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll published Thursday.

Bush's approval rating in the poll was at 45 percent, down one point from May, while his disapproval rating went up two points to 49 percent. Most disapprove of how Bush is handling the economy, foreign policy and Iraq.

And for the first time in his presidency, the poll said, more people (45 percent) gave him poor ratings for being "honest and straightforward" than high ratings (41 percent).

Nonetheless, by a 57 to 42 percent margin, Americans agree with Bush in maintaining US military and economic commitment in Iraq until it can govern and control itself.

And by a greater margin, 61 to 34 percent, Americans agree with Bush's assertion that the war in Iraq is part of the broader war against terrorism.

However, Iraq (23 percent) and the US economy (19 percent) rate higher than terrorism (17 percent) as to what the 1,009 adults surveyed July 8 to 11 feel the top concern of their government should be.

In other issues, 73 percent opposed China's purchase bid for US oil concern Unocal, and 65 percent said the US Supreme Court—one of whose nine members has resigned—should not overturn abortion rights.

The poll, which has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points, also found that by a margin of 45 to 38 percent, Americans would like to see the Republicans lose control of Congress in the 2006 elections. *AFP*

US calls rich Saudi individuals 'significant source' of terror funds

WASHINGTON—The US government has suggested wealthy Saudi individuals remain "a significant source" of funds for Islamic terrorists around the world, despite widely-publicized efforts by the desert kingdom to shut down these channels.

The statement by Treasury Undersecretary Stuart Levey before the US Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, contrasted with earlier upbeat assessments by US officials that Saudi Arabia was making good progress in stemming the flow of private money to terrorist groups.

Levey said challenges posed by terrorist financing from within Saudi Arabia were "among the most daunting" his agency had to face as it tries to persuade Islamic nations to strengthen controls over their banks and charitable organizations.

"Wealthy Saudi financiers and charities have funded terrorist organizations and causes that support terrorism and the ideology that fuels the terrorists' agenda," Levey told lawmakers Wednesday.

"Even today, we believe that Saudi donors may still be a significant source of terrorist financing, including for the insurgency in Iraq," he added.

US officials expressed particular concern about three Saudi-run charities that operate around the world: the International Islamic Relief Organization, the World Association of Muslim Youth and the Muslim World League.

The Saudi government has moved to establish an oversight commission for its charitable sector and ordered an end to uncontrolled collection of charitable donations at mosques and retail shops.

But US officials argued they wanted to see convincing proof that these proclaimed initiatives have become reality.

Assistant Secretary of State Anthony Wayne told senators American diplomats continue to stress in their discussions with the Saudis "the need for full implementation, including a fully functioning charities commission." Republican Senator Richard Shelby, who chairs the committee, cited the case of the New York branch of Arab Bank, which is under investigation by the Justice Department on suspicion it had been used to channel funds to the radical Palestinian group Hamas and al-Qaida.

"At the core of the Arab Bank case sits the Saudi Committee for the Support of the Al Quds Intifada, a known conduit for money destined for terrorist organizations in the West Bank and Gaza," Shelby fumed.

Administration officials also voiced alarm that Saudi supporters of al-Qaida and anti-American insurgents in Iraq were increasingly turning to individual couriers rather than financial institutions to move cash across the border.

"It is critical that Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries lower reporting thresholds for cross-border transfers of cash and enforce these provisions aggressively," Levey said. *AFP*

China denies its beer contains cancer-causing agent

BEIJING—China's beer industry, among the largest in the world, has defended itself against reports that 95 percent of its bottled beer contains formaldehyde, a cancer-causing agent, state media said Thursday.

Industry officials said the chemical—commonly used to preserve dead bodies or as a disinfectant—plays a part in the brewing process but that the level in Chinese beer is within acceptable standards, the China Daily said.

"Consumers need to know that the formaldehyde in beer is a different type from that in household chemicals, and this confusion has scared people greatly," Xiao Derun, director of the China Alcoholic Drinks Industry Association's beer branch, was quoted as saying.

Trouble began brewing on July 5 when the Beijing-based newspaper The Global Times printed a letter claiming to be from a beer inspector saying many Chinese breweries were using formaldehyde as an additive.

Accompanying the letter was an investigative report that quoted Du Lujun, secretary of the association's beer branch, as saying 95 percent of the country's beer contains the chemical.

According to Du, breweries use formaldehyde because it is a cheap way of preventing sediment from forming during storage, the report said.

The reports were circulated in many Chinese newspapers, alarming beer drinkers across the country.

On Monday, the Korea Food and Drug Administration said it had decided to test Chinese beer imports for formaldehyde before allowing them to clear customs, China Daily said.

Japan's health ministry has also asked importers of Chinese beers, which are increasingly popular in Japan, to check the ingredients with manufacturers to ensure they do not include formaldehyde, which Japan bans in food. *AFP*

ERRATUM

The apology published by International Distillers Philippines, Inc. on the 7 July 2005 issue, Lifestyle Section, p. C2 of this newspaper, should have read 'Ms. Ma. Teresa O. Matera' and not as published."

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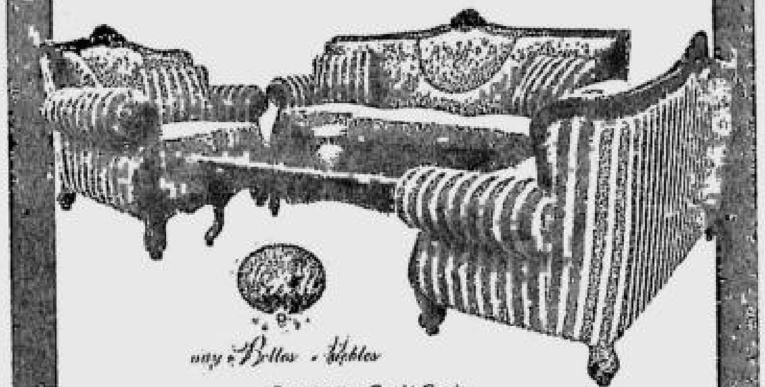

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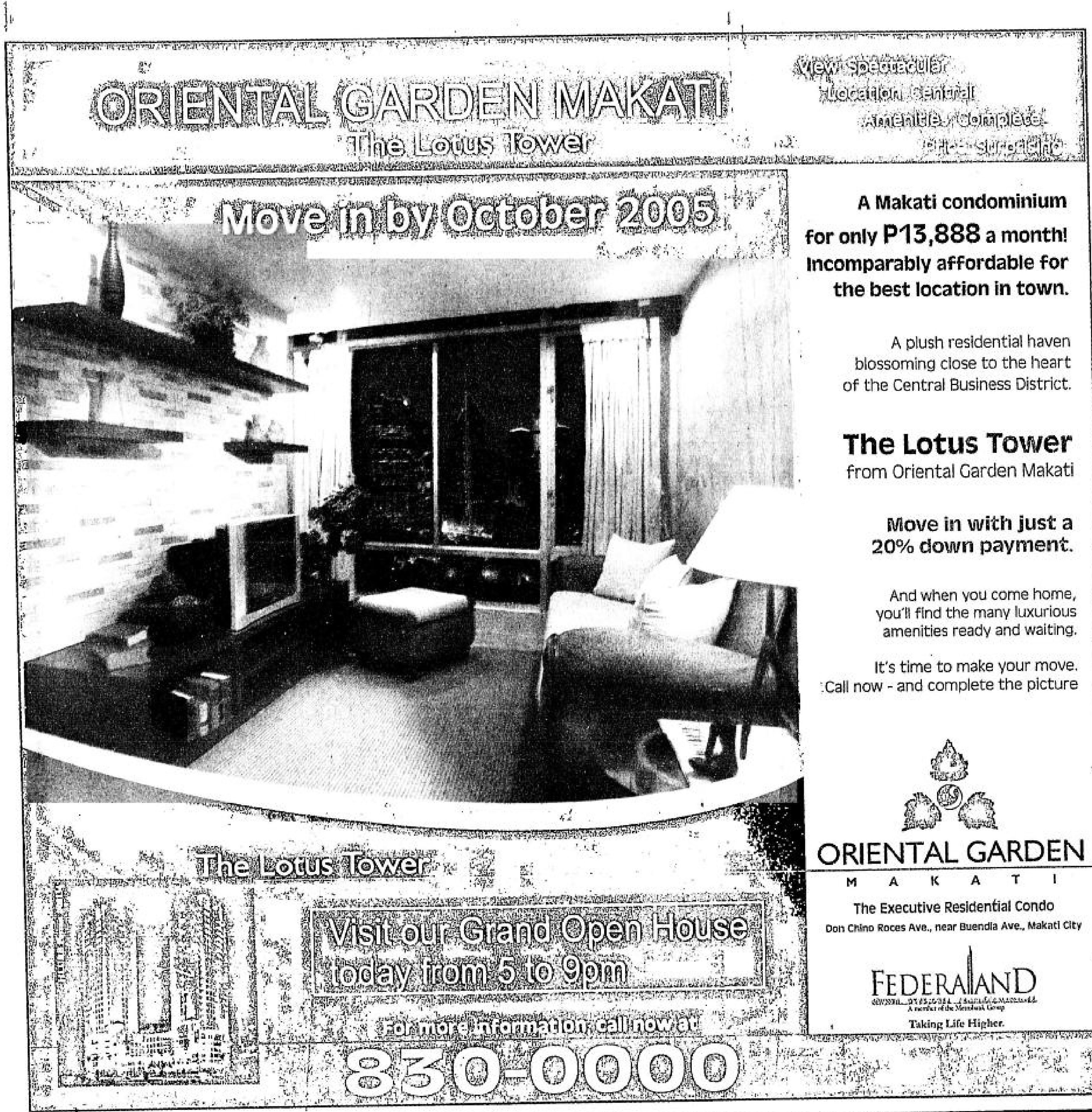
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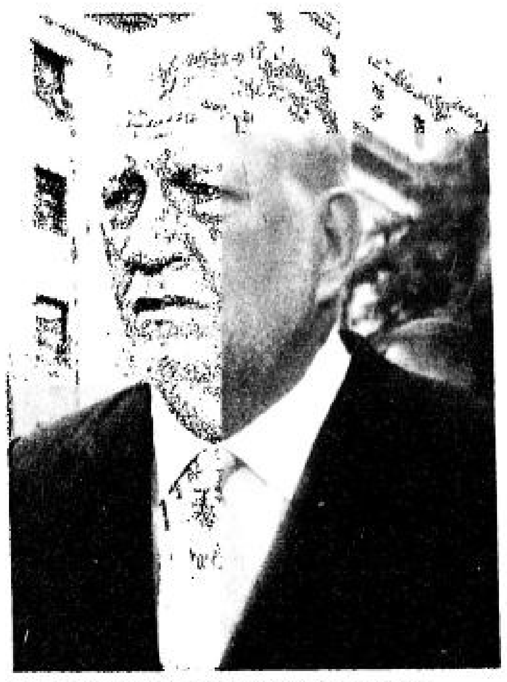

TEARY-eyed former CEO of WorldCom Bernard Ebbers leaves a Manhattan federal court after being sentenced for his role in the collapse of WorldCom in an epic accounting fraud, July 13 in New York. AP

Ebbers gets 25 years in WorldCom fraud

NEW YORK—Former WorldCom chief executive Bernard Ebbers was sentenced Wednesday to 25 years in prison for his role in the fraud scheme at the telecom giant that led to the biggest corporate collapse in US history.

It was an effective life term for the 63-year-old Ebbers who wept and hugged his tearful wife after US District Judge Barbara Jones pronounced sentence.

"A sentence of anything less would not reflect the seriousness of the crime," said Jones, who rejected defense arguments that the fraud-related losses suffered by WorldCom investors had been exaggerated and that Ebbers was not the architect of the $11-billion accounting scam."

"It is quite clear to me that Mr. Ebbers was a leader of criminal activity in this case," she said.

Ebbers, who built one of the biggest US telecom empires and became a symbol of the corporate scandals that rocked the financial world, was ordered to report to a federal prison in Mississippi on Oct. 12.

Although sentencing guidelines suggested a range of 30 years to life, the judge said she had decided on 25 years after taking into account Ebbers' heart condition and charity work.

The sentence is nonetheless one of the stiffest in recent memory in a white-collar crime case and reflects the effort to crack down on corporate misconduct in the wake of the scandals at Enron, WorldCom and other companies that roiled financial markets and prompted legislative reforms.

In a passionate plea for leniency, defense lawyer Reid Weingarten described Ebbers as a charitable "angel," who had given more than $100 million to orphanages, schools and other organizations and who had "grieved every day" for those who lost their jobs and savings in WorldCom's collapse.

"If you live 60 years, if you have an unblemished record, if you have endless numbers of people who attest to your goodness, doesn't that count?" Weingarten said, his voice cracking with emotion.

An opposing point of view was offered by former WorldCom sales manager Henry Bruen, who told the court of the "untold human carnage" and "sheer hell" reaped by Ebbers' fraud on the personal and professional lives of many people.

Shareholders lost about $180 billion in WorldCom's collapse, 20,000 workers lost their jobs and the company went bankrupt. The company came out of bankruptcy last year, renamed MCI Inc.

The company struck a $750-million settlement with federal regulators to repay investors. *AFP*

HK's beaches awash with trash

HONG KONG—Beaches in Hong Kong have become virtual garbage dumps in recent months, with tons of trash ranging from plastic bags to a dead pig washing up from mainland China, a newspaper reported Thursday.

Items found include plastic bags labeled with mainland brands as well as food and grocery packaging with simplified Chinese characters—used in the mainland but not in Hong Kong, the Apple Daily newspaper reported.

A dead pig was also among the southward drifting flotsam, it said.

The large amount of garbage that has in past summers drifted into the city's waters aided by prevailing southwesterly winds is worse than ever this year, a Hong Kong government spokesperson said.

A local report said 600 bags of trash were collected at a single beach one day.

Continuous heavy rain in the region in June contributed to the problem, marine department spokesperson Thomas Cheng said. The amount of trash floating on Hong Kong waters has shot up from 900 tons in June to more than 700 tons in the first 10 days of July, he said. *AP*

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Midway through the promotion, 10 lucky Nestlé shoppers will each drive home an Isuzu Crosswind after the Preliminary Draw. Deadline for submission of entries is August 13 and the Preliminary Draw will be held simultaneously on August 27 in 9 Nestlé sales regions.

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A participant in "Nestlé Pasko Na, Pasko Now! P50 Million Raffle Promo" may win more than one prize in the course of the promotion.

A winner of an Isuzu Crosswind or a P50,000 Cash prize in the preliminary draw may also win an All-In-One Grand Prize Package consisting of a Laguna BelAir House & Lot, an Isuzu Crosswind and P500,000 Cash in the Grand Draw.

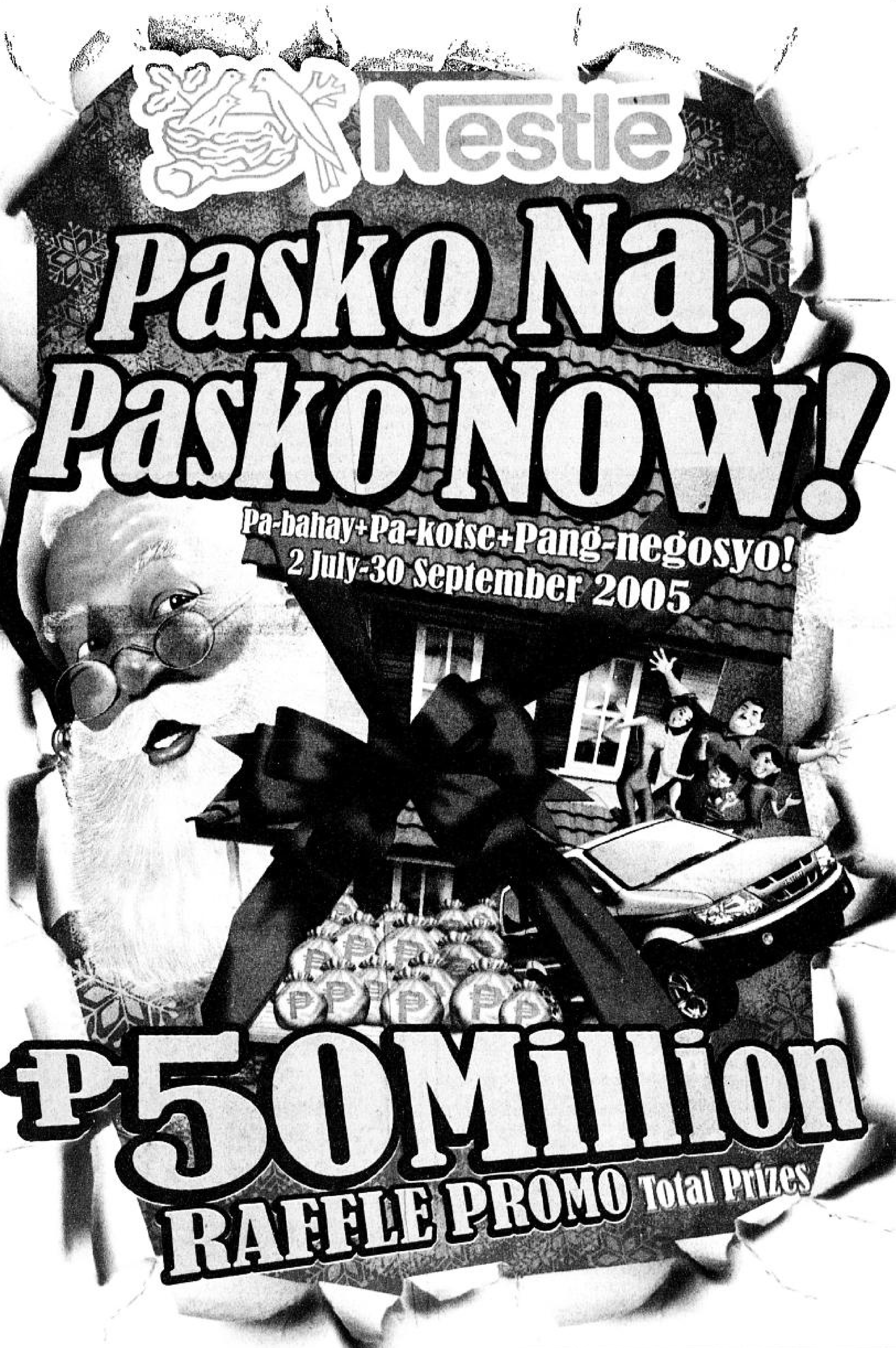
However, a participant may win only once during a draw. If a participant's name is drawn more than once during a draw, the participant will be awarded the prize with the higher value.

For example, if a participant's name has been drawn for a P50,000 Cash prize in the preliminary draw and gets drawn again for an Isuzu Crosswind in the same draw, the participant will be given the Isuzu Crosswind which is valued at P1 Million.

In the same way, a winner of a P50,000 Cash prize in the preliminary draw may also win another P50,000 Cash prize in the grand draw. The more entries a participant sends in, the more chances he or she has of winning.

All non-cash prizes are convertible to cash and winners may opt to take home the cash equivalent of their Isuzu Crosswind or House & Lot. All non-winning entries from the preliminary draw will automatically qualify for the grand draw.

The preliminary and grand draws will be held at the designated Nestlé offices under the supervision of a representative from the Department of Health-Bureau of Food and Drugs on August 27 and October 12, respectively.



Winners will be contacted through telephone and notified through registered mail after the confirmation of winners. A list of winners will also be published in newspapers.

Here are some frequently asked questions about "Nestlé Pasko Na, Pasko Now! P50 Million Raffle Promo"

Who may join?

The promotion is open to all shoppers of Nestlé products throughout the Philippines, from Luzon to Mindanao.

What are the participating Nestlé brands?

NESCAFÉ, NIDO, MILO, BEAR BRAND, COFFEE-MATE, CARNATION, MAGGI, NESTEA, NESVITA, NESTLÉ Baby, LIBERTY, CHUCKIE, NESTLÉ All-Purpose Cream, NESTLÉ Fresh Milk, KOKO KRUNCH, NESTLÉ Goya, NESTLÉ Ice Cream, and ALPO.

When are the draws?

The Preliminary Draw will be on August 27, 2005 and the deadline for submission of entries is August 13, 2005.

The Grand Draw will be on October 12, 2005 and the deadline for submission of entries is September 30, 2005.

What are the Preliminary Draw prizes?

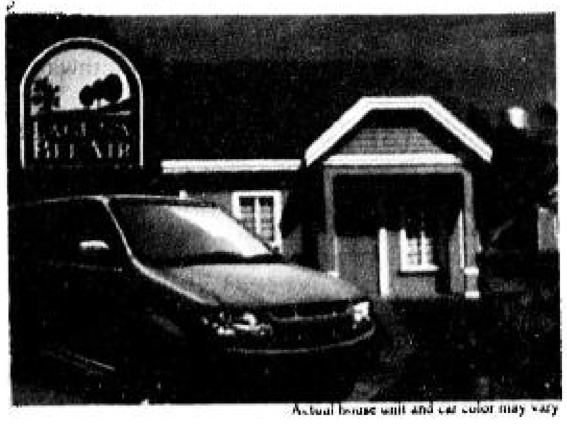
10 Isuzu Crosswind and 100 Cash prizes of P50,000 for each winner.

What are the Grand Draw prizes?

10 All-In-One Packages, each consisting of a Laguna BelAir House & Lot, an Isuzu Crosswind and P500,000 Cash. There will also be 100 Cash prizes of P50,000 for each winner.

Grand winners take all

Life will never be the same again for the winners of the All-In-One Grand Prize Packages. They will each enjoy a beautiful new house at Laguna BelAir, get to drive around in their new Isuzu Crosswind, and start their own business with their P500,000 cash prize.



Actual house unit and car color may vary

Their new 2-storey homes in Laguna BelAir will definitely move them up to luxurious living in an executive community that features a full range of lifestyle facilities offering something for every member of the family.

Travel will likewise be more comfortable in their new Isuzu Crosswind, an ideal family vehicle that can seat up to 7 passengers. Completing the unique package is the cash prize that can be used as start-up capital for a business venture for the family's future.

Easy does it

One. Buy any 3 participating Nestlé products. An entry may have one brand or a combination of brands. For example: 3 BEAR BRAND or 2 NIDO + 1 NESCAFÉ or 1 COFFEE-MATE + 1 MAGGI + 1 CARNATION.

Two. Collect the empty foils, boxtops or labels of the 3 Nestlé products or cut off the proofs of purchase and place them inside an envelope. Seal the envelope and indicate at the front the promo title ("Nestlé Pasko na, Pasko Now!"), your name, address, telephone or cell phone numbers, and signature.

Three. Drop entry/ies in promo drop boxes in participating supermarkets, drug stores, groceries, wet market stalls, and sari-sari stores nationwide.

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OPINION

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The Noli factor

EDITORIAL

VICE President Noli de Castro may yet become the pivot in the crisis besieging the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. If the President is booted out of office, the constitutional mantle will pass on to him. This seems to be the consensus of some influential players, such as former President Corazon Aquino, who have called for the President's resignation. And if an earlier Pulse Asia survey is to be believed, 60 percent of Filipinos are ready to accept De Castro as president, acting or real.

The prospect may be discomfiting to thinking Filipinos. To some people, even as vice president, De Castro has merely been "acting." Such is the distaste and repugnance for media personalities engendered by the presidency of Joseph Estrada and the candidacy of Fernando Poe Jr. that many remain in denial that, indeed, De Castro, is a heartbeat away from the presidency. The prospect is too "real" as to be surreal for some. Perhaps this is what the poets mean when they write about the "harshness of reality."

But isn't De Castro a broadcast personality, a journalist? Alas, if in other countries, journalists are considered intellectuals whose opinions and positions are eagerly awaited to resolve social problems and crises, in the Philippines they are mere carnival sideshows. For how else would one explain the broadcast media's description of their programs as "infotainment"?

This same distrust for entertainers is the reason there seems to be few takers for the call of former Sen. Loren Legarda that De Castro step down because the election results were allegedly rigged in his favor. If she indeed won the vice-presidency, would she be any different from him? At ABS-CBN, they were both news readers. They made the news believable. In short, they were actors. Entertainers.

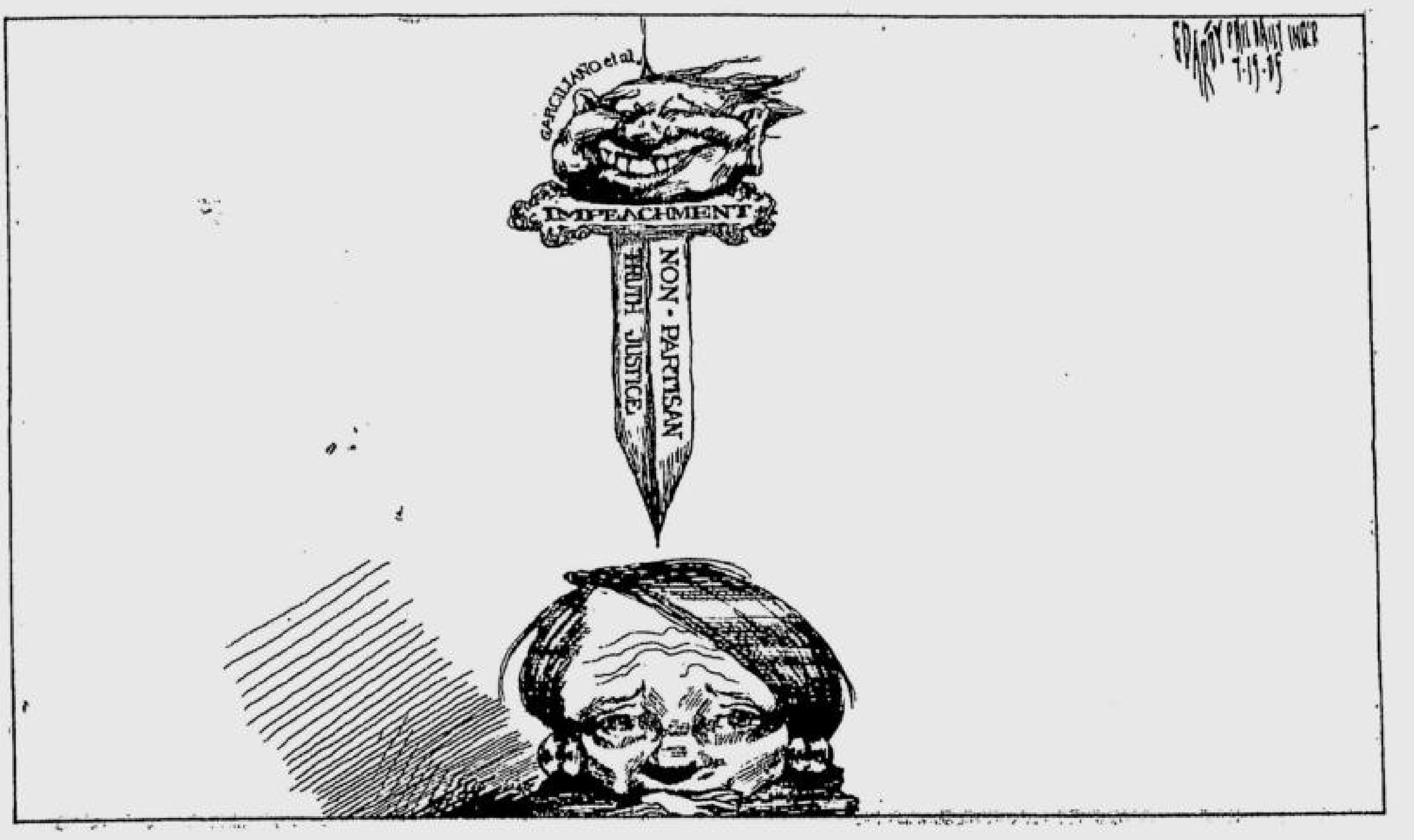
But the fact that a big majority of Filipinos are willing to have De Castro take over the reins of government only shows that they are committed to resolving the crisis within the bounds of the Constitution. It shows that people are repelled by calls to resolve the crisis by means that undermine our constitutional foundations.

The calls are diverse, but they amount to the same thing: extra-constitutional jabs that could only worsen rather than remedy the problem. Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, retired Bishop Julio Labayen and a few Metro Manila bishops have called for a "transition" government, while leftist forces have either proposed a "junta" or a "council of state" that would take over the government once Ms Arroyo resigns or is ousted. What all of these calls presuppose is a constitutional order that is a shambles.

The Left cannot exactly be accused of revisionism. It really looks at the liberal democratic order as a failure, an artifice of governance. It does not recognize such an order because it derides its basis—popular elections—as an exercise in bourgeois boredom. In short, it does not recognize the Constitution. It does not recognize the democracy that forms and informs the expression of constitutionalism. It does not recognize this because democracy is popular, people-centered. The Left's calls for De Castro to step down and the establishment of a state council to govern the nation (presumably, the Left forms the majority in the council) show its bias for statism, for centralized authority, for single-party fixes.

As for the so-called "progressive" bishops, there's a quixotic dimension in their initiative to form a group consisting of a number of academics, intellectuals and other leaders of society who would manage the transition. Since the group is envisioned to screen applicants for the highest government positions, it is nothing more than a talent search committee. Which may be well and good, but from where will the committee derive its authority? Do clerics have to be involved in the minutiae of personnel management? Is it within the competence of bishops and priests to run government or dictate how it is run?

All of these questions crop up because denying the succession and transition provided by the Constitution creates a black hole of ifs and buts, of trial and error, of hits and misses. It's a power vacuum that adventurists and interlopers will be eager to fill. The majority of our people apparently crave certainty. They want the Constitution, with all its flaws, to be respected and followed.



Can we trust Congress to write a new Charter?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and the Pangalatok twins are getting confused. The people want GMA to step down for cheating in the last elections, but the P-Twins, former President Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia, propose instead to change the Constitution and the system of government. The people ask GMA to resign but she orders her whole Cabinet to resign instead. The people want GMA to get out of Malacañang but she sends her husband and son out of the country instead. The people clamor for her to resign but she says instead, "I won't resign."

Curiously, this last statement has made many anti-GMA people happy. When I ask why, they reply, "That means she's going to resign later."

How do they know that?

"Because when she says one thing, she does the opposite. Don't you remember, she promised not to run for president and then she turned around and ran instead?"

But I have to hand it to the P-Twins, they know how to take advantage of the present crisis. They were able to push what they have been unsuccessfully pushing for so long—a shift to a parliamentary system—in the guise of "saving" the country and giving GMA "a graceful exit." In reality, they are only giving themselves a graceful entry to the seat of power.

Under the present presidential system, both of them are barred from Malacañang—FVR because the Constitution bans him from running for reelection, and JDV because he can never win in a presidential election. Their solution: change the Constitution and shift to a parliamentary system. They're doing it in a hurry, too, before the people wake up and realize the sleight of hand they're doing.

Instead of a constitutional convention writing a new Charter, they want Congress to convene as a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution so that parliamentary elections can be held in March next year and new officials can take over in May, with the new prime minister most likely being none other than FVR himself. That's only 10 months away. In 10 months, GMA would be jobless.

GMA thought the P-Twins saved her. Actually, like a condemned prisoner, she was given only a brief reprieve. Her execution has been set for May by the P-Twins. Poor GMA, even her perceived "friends" are taking advantage of her.

We as a nation should wake up to the fact *na niloloko lang tayo ng* P-Twins. They pretend that what they're doing is for GMA and the nation. Actually, they're doing it for themselves. They have their own selfish agenda: to grab power.

We should resist any attempt to have Congress change the Constitution and shift to a parliamentary government. Imagine, the present congressmen and senators writing the new constitution! Can we trust them to do that? What kind of constitution will they, with their brains, write? The fact alone that FVR and JDV are behind it is enough to make us distrust the whole exercise.

We should not allow them to bamboozle us into changing to a parliamentary system. It would be a change from bad to worse. (I already explained why in last Monday's column.)

Besides, it was a clever ploy to distract us from the crisis at hand. The highest official of the land has been caught cheating and the people want her to step down like a good statesman should.

In fact, many other distractions are purposely being floated to cloud the air. If the President is to be replaced, they say, the process should be "constitutional," meaning it should be either through resignation or impeachment, and not through people power. But people power is not an "unconstitutional" way of ousting a president. People power gave us back our freedom in 1986. What was hailed by the world in 1986 and 2001 is now suddenly being painted as bad.

Then there is the proposal for a "truth commission" to investigate the charge of cheating by the President. But there is no law authorizing a truth commission. Even if one is created through executive order, it would have no legal authority to subpoena witnesses and its findings and recommendations would have no legal effect.

Besides, who would be members of the commission? They would necessarily be appointees of the President, the very person whom they would investigate. Will the people believe them if they find the President innocent?

But there is a fast, foolproof and acceptable way to find out if there was cheating in the last elections. And that is to open the election returns—not necessarily all of them, but only those from places identified by the losing candidates.

The vice-presidential returns will be opened by the Presidential Electoral Tribunal because of the poll protest of opposition candidate Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro. Why not also recount the votes cast for GMA and FPJ? Will that not answer once and for all the suspicion that there was cheating?

If I were GMA and I knew I did not cheat, I would agree to a review of the election returns because that would remove any doubt as to the legitimacy of my presidency. And I would tell my lawyers not to delay the process because the faster it is finished, the better for me. But if I knew I cheated, why, I would use all means, fair or foul, to block or delay the recount.

So whether or not GMA agrees to a recount of the presidential votes at the same time as those of the vice-presidential votes will be an indication of whether or not she cheated.

Which brings us to the dilatory tactics of the lawyers of the Vice President at Tuesday's hearing of Legarda's poll protest before the PET. Suspicion grows that Noli's camp cheated. Why else would they try to delay the proceedings?

Vox populi, vox Garci

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE QUESTION is no longer whether President Macapagal-Arroyo must go, but how—whether she is damned by the voice of people asking her to resign, or by the voice of Garci implicating her in the sin of election cheating and getting her impeached.

We can either take the political path that leads to her resignation, or the legal path that leads to her impeachment. The President has urged her critics to take the legal path and give her the benefit of due process. I had earlier asked, at a forum at the UP Faculty Center, that we avoid the "demonization" of the President and instead remain focused on the issue of her culpability, but I still believe that the President's plea suffers from a three-fold handicap.

First, it fails for want of historical context. If you choose the legal path because you want "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth," you must be short on memory, a floppy in the age of flash drives. Sure, the President told the people in her "I am sorry" speech of June 28: "For the last several weeks, the issue of the tape recordings has spun out of control. Tonight, I want to set the record straight. You deserve an explanation from me, because you are the people I was elected to serve." And she continued: "I want to assure you that I have redoubled my efforts to ... earn your trust."

But in her July 7 speech, she showed us our naiveté by declaring, "Shameless people have peddled the lie that I confessed to cheating." No, she had not admitted that hers was the voice on the tapes, or that the conversations on the tapes truly happened.

Given this record of forthrightness and candor, be not surprised if her lawyers raise every possible bar to the truth in an impeachment trial, including issues about the admissibility of the tapes. The only thing restraining them is the fear of the "second envelope" that can trigger public outrage, but they will try for incremental triumphs. Sure she has the right to put forth her best defense, but we are entitled to expect much more respect for truth-seeking from a public servant who pledged "to set the record straight" and "earn [the] trust" of "the people [she] was elected to serve."

Second, her plea suffers for want of bona fides. The main beneficiary of Edsa 2 now warns us that "an Edsa 3 would condemn my successor to the possibility of an Edsa 4, and then an Edsa 5 and so on .... [It would] condemn the Philippines as ... hopelessly unstable ... [W]ho would invest money in the Philippines?"

Now she's telling us! Truly we must prefer to make our institutions work, but we must ask ourselves: Who betrayed these institutions in the first place, and brought them beyond redemption? Let her who is without sin ....

Third, her plea must fail for want of theory. She appeals to the rule of law—"a government of laws and not of men"—and reminds us of our fealty to the Constitution. Her cohorts cling to the anti-populist reading of the Constitution vis-à-vis the populist sensibility. The US Supreme Court has long ago said that the idea that law supplants popular power tends "to dwarf the political capacity of the people, and to deaden [their] sense of moral responsibility."

The other day, UP constitutional law professor Florin Hilbay, who topped the 2000 bar exams and is now a volunteer lawyer with former Senate President Jovito Salonga's Bantay Katarungan, fresh with his LL.M. degree from Yale, spoke of the theory of "popular constitutionalism" before the highest academic council of the university. He said that we as citizens and stakeholders are equally entitled to be "makers and givers of meaning" to the text of our Constitution, especially the part which says that "a public office is a public trust" and that the President may be impeached for "culpable violation of the Constitution ... other high crimes, or betrayal of public trust."

Harvard law professor Richard Parker in "Here the People Rule: A Constitutional Populist Manifesto" says that the anti-populist reading results in the idea that constitutional law is a "higher law" that looks "with disdain" or "look[s] down" on the political energy of ordinary people, who are then seen as ignorant, emotional and simple-minded. Hence the notion that the Constitution is "meant to contain or to retard, to tame or to manipulate" the raw power of the people.

Parker concluded: We have "inflate[d] constitutional law, its grandiose puffing as law imagined to be 'higher'—because 'better'—than ordinary law made by ordinary people. ... [W]e constitutional lawyers have fed on disdain for the political energy of ordinary people." The result is a "chronic fetishism of the Constitution"—the "extravagant if not obsessive reverence for the icons, liturgies and orthodoxies of our Constitutionalism to which quasi-supernatural powers, beyond human agency, are commonly attributed."

Here in the Philippines, the popular power to read the Constitution was long ago recognized by the great Jose P. Laurel in Angara v. Electoral Commission. "[T]he people who are authors of this blessing must also be its guardians." He concluded that the "success of our government in the unfolding years to come [will] be tested in the crucible of Filipino minds and hearts [rather] than in consultation rooms and court chambers."

The question is not whether GMA must be given the benefit of the law, but whether GMA is prepared to give the law the benefit of justice. Unless we are so assured, we the people are not limited to the parliamentary court of impeachment, and possess the sovereign power to make her, an elective officer, account before the parliament of the streets.

* * *

Comments to [illegible]

All or nothing

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

ALTHOUGH the Makati rally of anti-government groups last Wednesday was the biggest demonstration they have staged since the tapes ignited last month the crisis of confidence in President Macapagal-Arroyo, the turnout (estimated by police at 40,000) fell far short of their boast that they would unleash half a million people in the streets.

The turnout was immediately compared with the magnitude of the people-power demonstrations that toppled the Marcos regime in 1986 and the Estrada government 2001. The rally was a test of the capacity of anti-regime forces to mobilize people and get them to the streets to pressure the President to step down. It was a prelude to the "show of force" that regime opponents are planning for July 25, when the President delivers her State of the Nation Address. And the turnout appears to have given them encouragement to mount the big push.

The crowd was composed of disparate groups associated with deposed President Joseph Estrada, the late Fernando Poe Jr., former President Ferdinand Marcos and former allies of President Arroyo and a motley delegation of Left-wing organizations with incompatible ideologies and political objectives—all of the them bound by a single demand—the resignation of the President—and not by a political program.

The rally was a signal that regime opponents were escalating pressure from the streets to force the President's resignation and shifting to the streets the battleground in the conflict that is dangerously careening toward a protracted stalemate.

The shift follows the loss of momentum of the resignation demand over the weekend, after key strategic institutions—including part of the Cabinet, the Armed Forces, part of the business community, and Catholic bishops—failed to back the demand.

The decision of the bishops not to join the clamor for the President's resignation appeared to have influenced the shift toward a more confrontational approach in view of the President's adamant position that she would not step down.

The shift developed amid signs that the political opposition was increasingly attracted to the impeachment option, following the emergence of cracks in the majority coalition in Congress marked by the withdrawal by the Liberal Party of its support for the administration. But other more radical groups in the ad hoc street coalition spurn impeachment.

The escalation of street action will depend upon the ability of the regime opponents to get people to the streets in such large numbers as to influence the Armed Forces to withdraw support from the regime.

There is a debate whether people power is a constitutional method of removing political leadership. This does not help break the impasse in real political terms.

The impeachment option received a boost from Sen. Richard Lugar, chair of the US Senate's foreign relations committee, who is considered to be friendly to the Philippines. He was reported to have expressed the view that the US government would not support any regime change in Manila other than through constitutional means. According to one press report, Lugar said impeachment proceedings should be instituted against President Arroyo if "there is something to the charges" she cheated in the 2004 election.

The value of impeachment is that the question of whether the President will stay in office will be determined in a process that is not open-ended unlike taking the issue to the streets where guilt or innocence is determined by the fury of the mob. This makes the impeachment option an attractive approach to manage the crisis before it gets out of hand. The danger of street action as the determining element for ending the crisis is that it hardens the impasse.

The street confrontation option has an explosive potential since it leads to hard-line polarization and constricts the room for political compromise. The resolution of the conflict then becomes a zero-sum game. The escalating demand for resignation represents an inflexible position that suggests that anti-government forces won't settle for nothing less than the unconditional surrender of the President, who is being bullied to submission with threats of people power.

With the President resisting this political blackmail, the conflict becomes an all-or-nothing political warfare to be settled not by a legal process, such as impeachment, but in a fight to the finish waged in the streets. The President's enemies can win this form of political war if they can produce massive demonstrations that would unnerve the President and force her to resign or influence the Armed Forces to intervene.

Short of demonstrating their strength in the streets, regime opponents cannot dictate their terms. Unless they win decisively the battle for the streets, they are not in a position to impose the demand of capitulation and unconditional surrender of government.

In the history of wars, the winners impose their own terms. There is no sign at present that the anti-regime forces can enforce their demands. They must show a greater capacity to mobilize the masses than what they showed in Makati.

That is why the longer the stalemate remains, the possibility of intervention by outside forces—such as the Armed Forces—looms larger. That is why a political solution through legal channels where compromise can take place is critically important. When outside forces intervene, the winner—which will be the one with superior force—takes all.

Sexist and stupid

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DISTASTEFUL indeed is the attack Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has launched against former President Cory Aquino, taking off from the text message circulating over the weekend. The text message jokingly says, "If Kris refused to listen to Cory, then how could Cory expect the nation to listen to her?" Clearly, this is in reference to Kris Aquino's colorful love life, especially her choice of "inappropriate" men.

Displaying his own bankruptcy of intelligence and wit, Gonzalez picked up the theme of the text message, advising Cory Aquino to keep her own counsel and monitor the activities of her daughter instead of seeking to influence political events.

On ANC, feminist leader Dr. Guy Estrada Claudio rightfully decried Gonzalez's broadside at "Tita" Cory as being "sexist," along with the secretary's earlier comment that the government had no intention of arresting Susan Roces-Poe because she was "too beautiful to arrest."

President Macapagal-Arroyo should immediately issue a gag order on Gonzalez because he is rapidly bringing us back to the campaign leading up to the snap elections. The dictator Marcos thought he had tapped into popular sentiment when he portrayed his opponent as "just a woman" unfit to lead the nation because a woman is "good only in bed."

The tactic backfired—and not just because it riled women all over the archipelago. Even the men recognized the injustice, arrogance and unreality of that stereotype.

* * *

WHAT makes Gonzalez's comments even more egregious is that his superior is a woman. And one whose own personal life and marriage are not exactly undeserving of unfavorable comment.

I think Ms Poe, for one, was being quite decent when she replied to a question put to her about the President's decision to "exile" her husband abroad that she didn't know anything about the parameters of their relationship.

But by firing this broadside at Cory and Kris, Gonzalez might very well have triggered a war of mudslinging and snide remarks.

So far, Cory and—surprise! surprise!—Kris herself have chosen not to react or comment on the malicious texts. All Kris had to say was that she was her "mother's daughter," begging interviewers not to badger her anymore about her own personal stand on the issue in which her mother is embroiled.

And as a parent myself, I also find it unfair that a mother should be held responsible for her adult child's behavior. We may not approve of everything our grown-up children decide or do, but we love them and stand by them anyway, and for that a mother deserves praise, not catty remarks from an arrogant male.

* * *

IF we are witnessing, as industry observers proclaim, the death throes of Philippine cinema, then Unitel Pictures and Peque Gallaga have just conspired to create its epitaph: the movie "Pinoy Blonde."

"Pinoy Blonde" is on the surface about a pair of cousins' overnight foray into an abandoned hotel being used as a lair of drug dealers and other shady characters. But the movie is really about another movie, or movies. It's about the movie cousins Andrew and Conrad, a pair of hard-luck cineastes, are creating in their minds, as well as the movies they reference and employ as metaphors for life.

Movies as escape, as parallel reality, as moral compass and guide—the movies, particularly the movies of Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal, are all that Andrew (Boy2 Quizon) and Conrad (Epy Quizon) talk about, think about and pin their hopes on. In real life, they're losers who've failed at most anything they've tried, and thus are at the beck and call of their powerful Uncle Tong (a nearly unrecognizable Mark Gil), whose source of wealth and power is suspect.

When Uncle Tong figures in a road mishap, hovering near death, he orders the cousins to bring a "package" to the seedy Hotel Maricopa, leave it at a designated spot, and pick up in turn a bag that will be waiting for them. Because, in the movie in their minds, they are wily and skilled fighters, Andrew and Conrad nurse no second thoughts about the assignment, and it is the interplay between the reality they face in the abandoned hotel's shabby interiors and the colorful fantasies in their imaginations that gives "Pinoy Blonde" excitement, humor and edge.

* * *

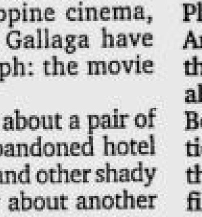
IT is not a movie for the fan of logical plotting and conventional moviemaking. Its creators proclaim it to be a "heady celebratory romp through cinema itself," interested not so much in telling a story as in making wry observations about the role that films play in our lives and in the shaping of our society. Certainly, as its own blurb says, "not the typical Pinoy movie."

Central to the movie is the running debate between the cousins who are partisans of modern Philippine cinema's iconic giants, the National Artists Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal. Who is the better filmmaker, the sentimental social realist Brocka or the clever social commentator Bernal? They might well be debating the directions that Philippine movies have been taking in the last few decades, although, as Ricky Davao's film-loving gangster sidekick points out, the truly dominant theme in local movies in the recent past has been formulaic commercialism.

Maybe that's director-writer Peque Gallaga's and writer Lore Reyes' central theme, that the dying movie industry, as seedy and filthy as the abandoned hotel, brought on its own demise.

Whatever the message, if there's any, "Pinoy Blonde" is still a heroic attempt at alternative moviemaking, a courageous gamble for which producer Tony Gloria deserves credit, too. Lending to the movie's edgy appeal is the soundtrack with cuts from some of the country's best rock bands, the score as much a part of the movie as the dialogue.

Continuing relevance of the past



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

NOW that there is much ferment going on in our political life, writing on the past may seem like a useless exercise. But history is sadly overlooked when we are in crisis. How we coped with the events of the past weekend is proof that we seldom use the past as a means to understand the present and chart the future.

Last weekend, an international symposium on "Manila, World Entrepot: 16th-19thC exchange of objects between Asia, Europe, and the Americas" was held at the Ayala Museum in Makati. It was well-attended and provided a means to look beyond the present and go beyond living memory, two or three centuries back to see the Manila-Acapulco Galleon Trade as the first example of what we now call globalization. In this exercise, those who attended the symposium saw the continuing relevance of the past.

When I was in school, I was trained by some teachers who still held the 1960s brand of rabid nationalism that rejected the four centuries of Spanish rule and stressed what was Philippine in a vain attempt to capture that elusive thing we call national identity. One professor even proposed tearing down the ancient walls of Intramuros, not only because it was seen as a symbol of colonial oppression, but because it was hoped that by sacrificing Intramuros in an intrusive archeological assessment, there was a remote possibility that we would find the pre-Spanish remains of Raja Soliman's palisades.

This brought to mind the annual celebration of Araw ng Maynila on June 24 that recalls the founding of "the distinguished and ever loyal" city of Manila—Spanish Manila. Carmen Guerrero Nakpil reminds us that the beginnings of Manila go way back even before the Spaniards even dreamed of the Philippines, hence the yearly celebration of Araw ng Manynila is actually Araw ng Kastila. So the move to see Philippine history from Filipino eyes is not new and it is this welcome paradigm shift that could result from the papers presented in the symposium.

While the Galleon Trade is an integral part of any lesson on Spanish Philippines, it is often used as yet another example of oppression and exploitation of the country and its people. I was taught that whatever economic benefits emerged from the Galleon Trade stayed with a small group of Spaniards (and the Church) but did not trickle down to develop the country or its people. The Ayala Museum symposium and inaugural exhibits prove that there were other lasting changes brought about by our Spanish past.

Fifty years ago, Nick Joaquin reacted to the prevailing nationalist mind set in a landmark essay, "Culture and History," and proposed his list of the 13 greatest events in Philippine history. For a history teacher looking for events like the 1872 execution of Gomburza or the Declaration of Independence on June 12, 1898, there is nothing but disappointment because Joaquin directed our attention to ordinary things we take for granted: the invention of the wheel, the introduction of paper, printing, the horse, and even vegetables that we think native to the Philippines like corn and cocoa that were imported from Mexico. Something as common as cooking the *guisado* way says a lot more about our past and our culture than any history book.

The overview of the Galleon Trade by Dr. Benito Legarda gave us the setting for the paper by Dr. Fernando Zialcita that gave examples of cultural exchanges in language, cookery, crops and culture. Mexico gave us chocolate, we gave them mangoes. It came as a surprise that coconut wine or *tuba* or cooking in coconut oil or *guinatan* is also done in Mexico. Thus, the Filipinos were not just passive recipients of cultural exchange but we appropriated these outside influences and made it our own. Chocolate may have come from Mexico, but *champorado* is our invention. Fr. Rene Javellana talked about Jesuit art and architecture, giving some examples of Namban art in Japan, leading me to remember that *tonkatsu*, the deep-fried breaded pork chop, is not really Japanese but Portuguese and that some of the very slow and refined movements of the tea ceremony could have been picked up from the way the Jesuits poured wine into their chalices and cleaned them afterwards.

The religious art in ivory, once said to have been the handiwork only of Chinese artisans, is now being reviewed in the light of some characteristics like a fold in the back of images of the Virgin that Regalado Trota Jose calls "*suksok*" and cannot be found in ivory carvings made by non-Filipino hands. There is even one ivory head of the Virgin that has the hair tied into a bun at the back of the head, which is typical of the Philippines but not Catholic iconography. These papers, following Joaquin's lead, provide another way of interrogating the past and interpreting artifacts that should help us find context and perspective in our lives.

One could only wish that the symposium was not limited by the inaugural ivory exhibit at the museum because aside from this, there were many products and goods exchanged between Asia and the West during the Galleon Trade. Further research could have produced papers on porcelain, textile, spices and much more. But then one is free to dream and hope that these can be subjects for future exhibits and symposia.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Replay forward

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

AS the prospects of shifting to a parliamentary system become stronger, it's time we use some hindsight, replaying history and looking at why we have had such miserable experiences with politics. Armed with insights from the past, we **might** be able to move forward.

From 1935 (the Commonwealth government) through 1972, with a brief interruption during the World War II, we used a presidential system that was a carbon copy of Mother America's. We held elections every four years for a president, vice president, senators and congressmen (no gender-correct language yet at that time), with the president limited to two consecutive terms or a total of eight years.

The system of directly electing a president and vice president meant a focus on personalities, which created many problems. The incumbent president would end up using the last two years of his term politicking, looking toward reelection. And all for nothing, because until Marcos, none of the presidents succeeded in getting reelected.

Political parties had little meaning in our presidential system with the focus on personalities. In the pre-Marcos era, politics was a game of musical chairs involving two parties, the Nacionalista (NP) and the Liberal (LP), with elections focusing on personalities trying to outdo each other with campaign gimmicks. The merging of show biz and politics started even in the 1950s, with "Magsaysay Mambo" jingles, baby-kissing, singing and dancing. Matinee idol Rogelio de la Rosa made his way into the Senate and ran for president in 1957, withdrawing only a few weeks before the election to support his brother-in-law Diosdado Macapagal.

Dictatorship hybrids

Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos brought show-biz politics to new heights. They were young and full of charisma; between his eloquent speeches and her song-and-dance routines, they were able to capture Malacañang easily in 1965. Marcos was reelected in 1969, but that election was marked by fraud and massive spending of public funds.

As his second term was about to come to an end, Marcos convened a constitutional convention. Then, as now, presidential loyalists tried to steer the convention to create a constitution that would allow Marcos to retain power. Then, as now, there were scandals and exposés of payolas to constitutional delegates.

The Con-Con became moot when Marcos declared martial law in 1972. He rushed a new constitution, imposing a hybrid system with Marcos taking on the role of both president and prime minister, with a rubber-stamp parliament called Batasang Pambansa. In 1981, he did appoint Cesar Virata as prime minister, but retained absolute power as president, issuing presidential decrees that had the force of law.

Under Marcos, too, the political party system degenerated even more. There was one ruling party, Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (or KBL, which was re-translated to mean Kami ay Bayad Lang to emphasize their being nothing more than paid hacks) with a motley band of token parties, including the NP and LP.

New improved presidency

After we got rid of the dictator in 1986, we passed a new constitution that shifted us back into a presidential system with some modifications. Fearful of a new Marcos, we limited the president to one six-year term.

But we continued to face many problems with this new presidential system. The degeneration of political parties that began during the Marcos dictatorship continued, the parties' roles now confined to the running of election campaigns and guarding their officials' public image, much like studios and TV networks do with actors and actresses.

A few political parties today do have distinct visions and programs (e.g., Bayan, Akbayan, Aksyon Demokratiko), but with most of the others, a party platform is a stage you climb to sing and dance. Not surprisingly, these politicians have no accountability, having been voted into office on rhetoric and promises, plus guns, goons, gold and glitter, rather than on the basis of party programs. Think hard now, do you know what the President's party affiliations have been, and what they stood for? More importantly, do you know what she and Noli stand for today, they having run as one team?

Which brings us to another problem with the presidential system. When Estrada fell, we ended up with his vice president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, even if, at that time, there were already serious doubts about her ability to govern. Now, if Ms Arroyo falls, we get Noli de Castro. All this is really absurd when you think about it: governments fail not just because of a president but because of an entire slate of officials.

Prime Minister Arroyo?

A parliamentary system offers an alternative with its emphasis on political parties rather than personalities. People don't directly elect the head of state; instead, the country is divided into electoral districts, each one voting a representative to Parliament. Votes are cast for political parties and platforms, which means the politicians have to get their act together and show how different they are from each other. The political party that gets the most seats in Parliament, alone or in coalition with other parties with similar political platforms, assumes the reins of government, including electing the head of state.

There is much greater accountability in a parliamentary system. If the ruling party doesn't perform, or if there are scandals, parliament can go into a vote of no-confidence, forcing the government to dissolve itself and call for new elections. No need here for banners like "Resign All!"

It isn't as tumultuous as it sounds; precisely, in a parliamentary system we'd have the mechanisms and procedures to dismiss an inept or corrupt government and elect a new one, with a stable transition period.

There are variations on the parliamentary system, but they generally work well, India, the world's largest democracy, being a prime example.

There's, of course, much more to parliamentary systems than can be written about in a column. Neither am I going to suggest that a parliament will solve all our political problems. We had peace with a compliant parliament under the Marcos dictatorship, but that, I feel, was far worse than what we have today, headaches and all, with our beleaguered presidential system.

Jose de Venecia and other Arroyo loyalists are now proposing Charter change and a parliamentary system, a move that has been greeted with cynicism because in their plan, Congress will convene as a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution. The worst nightmares could come true, as we see headlines "President Arroyo resigns" followed shortly by "Prime Minister Arroyo sworn in."

What painful irony indeed, since a proper parliamentary system could actually save us from more Arroyos. In the final analysis, whether presidential or parliamentary, it is what we make of the form of government that determines our future. Political systems don't fail people; it's people who fail the systems.

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Prolonging nation's agony

1. IT is a pastoral statement on the current political situation—not a teaching on faith and morals—that should be looked upon with respect and taken into consideration; but it does not command obedience and adherence. Conscientious objections are very much in order.

2. The position taken by the bishops, particularly on the appeals for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation, is a product of their (many, if not all, of them) being out of touch with reality, of their having confused appreciation of available data, of their being afraid of the unknown (e.g. what would happen if GMA resigns?).

Their not joining the call for GMA's voluntary resignation is an offshoot of their failure to realize that in the present crisis, it is no longer a question of whether GMA is guilty of the charges thrown at her and her family; but her lack of credibility to still effectively govern the country. GMA has already reached the point stated in Canon 1740: That when the minister of the ministry has for some reason become harmful, or at least ineffective, even though this occurs without any serious fault on his or her part, he or she can be removed for the good of the people and country.

3. The proposals to solve the issue through a truth commission and impeachment trial, instead of solving the problem immediately, will lead to further disunity and mistrust. This means extending the days of grave political crisis and prolonging the agony of the people under a presidency widely perceived to lack the moral and legal mandate.

We take note of the bishops' view that apology should be accompanied with accountability. To resolve the crisis immediately, GMA must heed the call to discern deeply so that she can listen and eventually relinquish power. Resignation is a constitutional option.

4. Finally, we hope and pray that the bishops will still change their position.

—FR. JOE DIZON,
Patriots,
patriots_christians@yahoo.com

Tango before Cha-cha

THE PHILIPPINES has long debated the idea of shifting to a parliamentary democracy from the US-style presidential model as a way of ending the cycle of populism and instability in our country. President Macapagal-Arroyo herself has pledged to make Charter change a reality next year. (PDI, 6/28/05)

Before dancing the Cha-cha, President Arroyo should dance first the "Tango" (Terminate All Non-Performing Government Officials). According to former Sen. Francisco Tatad, spokesman of Citizen vs. Corruption Task Force, since 2001, Ms Arroyo illegally appointed 50 persons to Cabinet and sub-Cabinet positions. Ms Arroyo appointed 38 undersecretaries when the law provides for only 16. She also appointed 48 assistant secretaries, but the law requires only 20.

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN, Marikina City

Credibility needed for a strong presidency

THE NATIONAL Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) and its 13 million constituents, along with the vast majority of the Filipino people, call for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation on the basis of the so-called "Gloriagate" tapes. Truth and justice must reign.

President Arroyo ended her silence by admitting that, indeed, she made the phone call to "a Comelec official." While she was apologetic, she explained that this was done to "protect her votes" and not to influence the outcome of the elections. We are saddened that she should be concerned about protecting her votes, when as President, it is the people's well-being that she should protect. Her admission does not allay the people's doubts about the genuineness of the election results.

Beyond her involvement in Gloriagate, the President must answer to the people for her economic policies which have aggravated the impoverishment and disempowerment of the marginalized. Large-scale mining by foreign companies has been revitalized. Prices are steadily rising. Attacks on civil liberties and intensifying political repression have been the government's response to people's expressions of their legitimate demands.

For us church people, we cannot claim to be unmoved by the President's apology. But there are far too many events, such as the killings of Joel Baclao, Fr. William Tadena, Rev. Edison Lapuz, journalists, human rights lawyers, local officials and other peace advocates that have come to pass without a word from her. And we have no illusions that this situation will change after the phone conversation admission. She will forever be haunted and hounded by people's questions about her moral ascendancy and legitimacy to lead this country. The most honorable thing for her to do now is to resign.

A country can only be strong if it is led by one who enjoys the trust, respect and support of the broad masses of the people.

—THE MOST REV. IGNACIO C. SOLIBA,
chair, SHARON ROSE
JOY RUIZ-DUREMDES,
general secretary, National Council
of Churches in the Philippines,
879 Edsa, West Triangle, Quezon City

Should she stay or go?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I AM an overseas Filipino worker working here in Abu Dhabi. I believe that President Macapagal-Arroyo should not resign because all politicians are of the same color. On the contrary, I think she should be strong in her resolve to continue in office so that she can effect meaningful changes that will alleviate the suffering of poor Filipinos. She should not let political vultures and opportunistic leftists take over the rein of power because they do nothing but divide the country through their constant demonstrations, accusations and grandstanding in Congress.—**Oscar Ramos, P.O. Box 4032 Abu Dhabi**

* * *

What the 10 Cabinet secretaries and senior officials did was a good move! I doubt whether Ms Arroyo can still hang on. *Para siyang isang ibon na wala ng pakpak* (She's like a bird without wings). If she does not resign, then I can conclude that she is not serving the people but her own interests.—**Leno Eballe, 98-20 Wooni-dong, Chongro-ku, Seoul Korea**

* * *

If President Arroyo resigns and Vice President Noli de Castro takes over, everybody can make a good guess that De Castro won't last a year in office, because the opposition will attack him until he is booted out. So if I were De Castro, I wouldn't replace Ms Arroyo in this situation. For this will perpetuate the vicious cycle where any sitting president can be toppled by a few disgruntled elements.

I still stand by the President I voted for last election, even if they force her out. After that, we can expect a civil war because the "Republic of Mindanao" is not a joke. And Cebuanos won't take the President's ouster sitting down, because countless times, we've been relegated to the political sidelines.

Stop this madness, the vicious intrigue and malicious and sinister plotting by the morally bereft political opposition.—**Dan Abella, Osa 4-25-1 Minami-ku, Fukuoka City, Japan**

* * *

Indeed, the lady is desperate to hang on to power. No politician could declare himself a champion of the masses and espouse change in the government if his or own hands are tainted. The best thing the President can do is follow the advice of former President Fidel Ramos, and make a graceful exit. She should follow the examples of foreign leaders who resigned because they no longer enjoyed the trust of the people.—**Diana Arboleda, 16/208 Pacific Highway, Hornsby, NSW Australia**

* * *

I see a "little light at the end of the tunnel" after reading our President's speech, where the past few weeks I could only see complete darkness for our country. I am one of those "voting with their feet to leave the country." I am now working in Singapore and cannot bear anymore to read news from and about the Philippines due to the bleakness, even total darkness of the state of affairs.

I pray and I urge my countrymen, especially the youth, to support our President. She is not a saint, and even saints did not lead a life of perfect conduct. Do we want those now eagerly eyeing her position to really run our country better than Ms Arroyo? Do you want Susan Roces? The hair on my arms stand up when I hear her speak because she sounds and looks eerily like the lady with 5,000 pairs of shoes. **—Raquel Supangan, 56 Bukit Batok East Ave. 5, Regent Heights Condo, Singapore**

* * *

If Gloria Arroyo had delicadeza, which is considered one of values that we uphold, she should voluntarily tender her resignation without any undue reservation. This is a moral act and will be remembered as a heroic gesture.—**Elmor Orquiola, 64 Bell Dean Road, Allerton, Bradford, United Kingdom**

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Reds forming group to recruit Moros

OUST GMA
MARCO POLO H

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

PROTESTERS demanding Ms Arroyo's resignation make their presence felt in Davao City.

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—The communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) said it is now planning to recruit Muslims to become guerrillas of the New People's Army and was setting up a new group for them.

But the NDF said the establishment of the Moro Resistance and Liberation Organization (MRLO) was aimed at bolstering "the secessionist armed struggle for the Bangsamoro's rights to self-determination being waged by Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the breakaway faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)."

"(The MRLO) would recruit Moros for the New People's Army and help establish guerrilla fronts in areas where there are no existing Moro revolutionary organizations," the NDF said in a statement.

The NDF said the MRLO was the revived version of the Moro Revolutionary Organization (MRO), which was established in the 1980s at the height of the anti-Marcos dictatorship movement.

During its organization, at least 25 delegates representing the 13 Moro groups—Tausug, Maguindanao, Maranao, Yakan, Iranun, Kalagan, Sangil, Samal, Pullun/Jama Mapun, Kalibugan, Badjao, Molbuganon and Palawani—attended a week-long congress held in Maguindanao late last month.

Prior to the establishment of the MRLO, the NDF's involvement with Bangsamoro underground activities was through its tactical alliance with the MILF.

The MILF has been negotiating peace with the government.

But while saying that the MRLO would complement the MILF struggle, the NDF statement failed to mention what would become of its tactical alliance with the rebel group.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, declined to comment on the formation of the MRLO.

He said they would have to study first if the formation of the group would have a direct effect on the alliance it had forged with the communists.

"We don't know if it has a bearing on our alliance with them. We will have to find that out first," Kabalu said.

A separate manifesto by the MRLO says that it "aims to ensure that the peasant masses have lands to own and till, push for genuine nationalist industrialization, and freedom from bureaucrat capitalism."

Hassan Al-Banna, MRLO chair, said they also aim to unite the "broadest number" of the Moro people for the national democratic revolution through alliances with progressive organizations and other Moro revolutionary groups.

Al-Banna also vowed they would do "painstaking organizing work among the ranks of the Bangsamoro" in order to do away with the organizational deficiencies and disunities that attended the Bangsamoro struggles.

"Some of our Bangsamoro brothers also betrayed us as they protected their selfish or clan interests," he said. *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cebu plans street party to back Gloria

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Cebu will display tonight a unique style of expressing support for the embattled President by holding a torch parade and street party.

The street party will signify the unity of the Cebuanos in supporting the President and is also aimed at commending the President for her decision to remain in office amid the calls for her resignation, according to Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia.

Garcia said the torch parade and street party is the answer of the Cebuanos to the angry calls for the President's resignation by the Anti-Arroyo forces who gathered in Makati City on Thursday.

Tonight's activity, dubbed as "celebration for unity," has the theme: One Voice, One Cebu, One Country for Gloria.

Jointly initiated by Cebu provincial and city governments, the program will begin at 5 p.m. when Cebu City officials headed by Acting Mayor Michael Rama, councilors, department heads, and other employees hold a short program during this afternoon's flag retreat.

After the program, the city delegations and members of urban poor groups, nongovernment organizations, and transport groups who campaigned for Ms Arroyo in the last elections will hold a torch parade to the Capitol grounds, which is about 5 km from the City Hall.

Participants in the torch parade would be asked to wear the "We Love Gloria" T-shirts that were distributed when Ms Arroyo took her oath in Cebu last year, according to city information officer Nagiel Bañacia.

While the torch parade goes on, Garcia will deliver her State of the Province Address (Sopa).

Bayan Muna slams Cha-cha as diversionary tactic

BAGUIO CITY—Political parties and officials proposing Charter changes to pave the way for a shift in the form of government are not addressing the real issues confronting the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, a Bayan Muna official said here on Wednesday.

"They are offering a way out for Gloria (Ms Arroyo) instead of confronting the issues against her," said Manuel Loste, Bayan Muna vice chair, during the launching of the Gloria Step down Movement (GSM) here.

GSM is a multi-sectoral group composed of the urban poor, workers, students, teachers and members of religious and militant groups.

Loste said those supporting changes in the 1987 Constitution and pushing for federalism were the "usual traditional politicians."

Among the leading proponents of Charter changes and the shift from a presidential to a parliamentary form of government are Speaker Jose de Venecia and former President Fidel Ramos.

Loste said these officials should "face the fact" that Ms Arroyo could no longer serve as President because she lost the political and moral ground to rule.

Bishop Juan Marigza of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) here asked Filipinos to discuss political issues in their local churches so they could reach a position on the issue. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Village area caves in; houses, crops destroyed

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Ten houses, crops and vegetables were destroyed after a big portion of Sitio Balikbayan, Barangay Mayana in Bohol's town of Jagna caved in last Monday.

Jagna Mayor Exuterio Lloren yesterday requested the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) to check the area after he noticed that the cracks have been slowly stretching toward the highway going to nearby Sierra Bullones town.

Lloren said the cracks have already reached one and half kilometers, stretching from the area where the 10 houses were destroyed toward the farms where vegetables, several coconut trees, bananas, corn and rice fields were also destroyed.

The mayor said the caved-in area was five meters long. He estimated the total damage to reach up to P2 million, but he said he was thankful that the occupants of the 10 houses were not harmed.

"Fortunately, it happened at 11 a.m. and the caving-in of the land happened slowly," Mayor Lloren said.

Most of the 60 individuals who occupied the destroyed houses were temporarily sheltered at the barangay hall while the rest opted to stay with their neighbors. The evacuees were also provided with rice and canned goods, the mayor said.

Lloren said they were still in the process of giving permanent shelter to the affected families, although some of them just asked the municipal government to help them transport their belongings because they wanted to relocate to other areas like Tagbilaran City.

He said the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) was also assessing how much financial assistance was to be extended to them.

Lloren said they might also give construction materials to the affected residents.

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STREET ART
Baguio engineers start coating tile mosaic art scattered around Baguio's downtown sidewalks with silicon sealant to prevent accidents to pedestrians.

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative Inc. (Ormeco) based here is asking Mirant to comply with its power supply commitment to the province as an independent power producer (IPP) "by sharing fairly in supporting the reliability of power system on the island."

Mirant, the country's largest IPP with a total capacity of over 3,500 MW generated by its various power plants, has a 7.5 MW diesel plant in Pinamalayan town, representing 20 percent of Ormeco's targeted installed capacity.

Under a contract signed in 1999, Mirant required Ormeco a minimum energy purchase of 4.1 million KWH a month or 40 percent of the local power firm's estimated energy needs.

Ormeco claimed, however, that the contract's conditions were not complied with and they never became effective.

Mirant, it added, delivered only 44 percent of its contracted energy over the last five years.

Sought for comment, Arman Lapus, vice president, Mirant Global Corp., said "This is a purely business discussion between Mirant and Ormeco. Talks are on-going to settle any outstanding issues. We hope to settle this in a manner that is acceptable to all parties concerned."

Ormeco's power committee adopted a policy of fair-sharing of the power system burden to be fair to its power suppliers.

The policy calls for all its power providers to install a generating capacity that is proportionate to their respective shares in Ormeco's energy needs.

Engineer Ronnie Morales, power committee spokesperson, said Ormeco was asking Mirant to choose between maintaining its 20-percent capacity and get only 20 percent of the energy or 40 percent of its energy but install 40 percent of Ormeco's 35 MW system.

On the baseload basis, Morales added, Mirant's rate is 10 percent higher than another IPP on the island.

"Ormeco's power committee would also like to see the elimination of onerous provisions in Mirant's contract like the punitive buyout provisions," he said.

The Ormeco official asked the giant power generator to deal with the penalties of P150 million that have accrued due to Mirant's failure to deliver the contracted energy.

In addition to its domination of the Luzon Grid, Mirant operates small diesel plants in Aklan and Cebu and a 100 MW diesel plant in Iloilo City.

In a letter to Mirant, Ormeco said, "The Epira Law requires us to contract at the least cost manner for our captive market. The competitive selection process requirement of the DOE and ERC do not allow us to sign power supply agreements at a higher price than other comparable price available." *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

GMA exec says Mindanao investments rose 142%

COTABATO CITY—Investments in Mindanao grew by 142 percent during the first four months of the year, Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said.

Dureza, who also chairs the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco), said based on figures from the Board of Investments (BOI) and the Phividec (Philippine Veterans Industrial Development Corp.) Industrial Authority in Northern Mindanao, Mindanao has cornered a total of 12 new investment projects amounting to P1.07 billion from January to April.

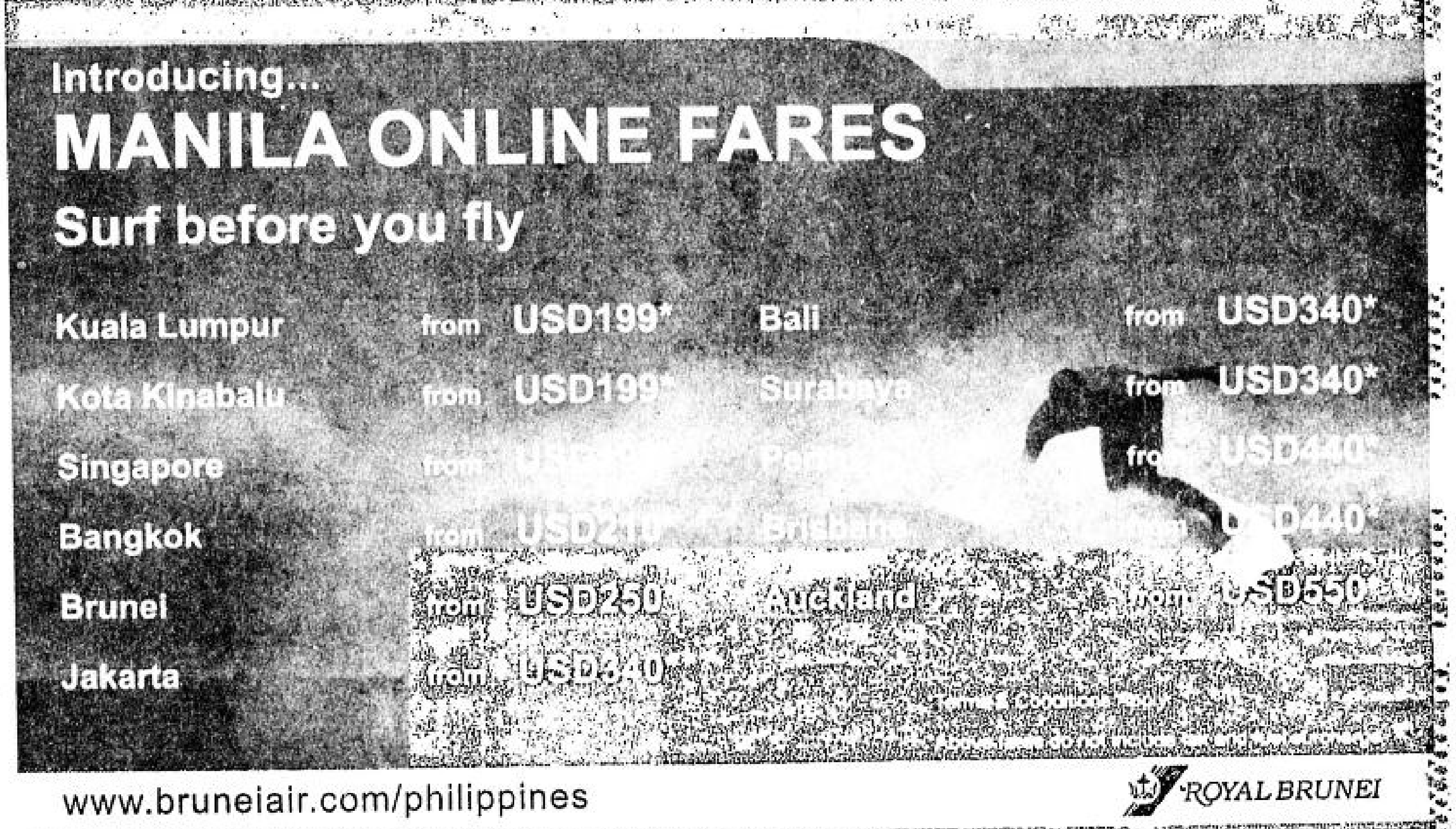
Last year, only P0.44 billion worth of investments was recorded for the same period.

Dureza said the projects are in regions 9, 10, 11 and 12 and has generated a total of 1,094 new jobs.

"The bulk of investment growth was mainly drawn from the P667 million worth of foreign investments infused during the first quarter, a 50-fold surge from just P13 million in the same period last year. Domestic investments also rose to P406 million, up by 11 percent from P365 million," he said.

Dureza said most of the approved investments are in the areas of livestock, poultry and feeds; processed foods and beverages; refrigeration and storage services; motor vehicle parts and components manufacturing and iron ore manufacturing.

The biggest investment was registered by the Japanese-owned Philippine Sinter Corp., which plowed in P520 million for the expansion of its iron ore manufacturing project in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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Solon says he refused meeting with Pineda

MATI, Davao Oriental—Suspected Luzon gambling lord Rodolfo 'Bong' Pineda tried to arrange a meeting with the chair of the House games and amusement committee as the congressional hearing on the *jueteng* issue continues.

Committee chair Rep. Joel Almario said Pineda coursed the invitation through a congressman.

He did not identify the congressman or the province he represents but Almario said the invitation came as a surprise.

"Bong Pineda asked for a meeting at a hotel in Manila," Almario, also Davao Oriental representative, said.

He said he was not informed why Pineda, touted to be one of the biggest gambling lords in the country, wanted to meet him.

Almario said he was not interested to know.

"I was overwhelmed by my fear that such meeting may put me in a bad light," he said.

Almario said he might be suspected of taking bribe from Pineda, "so I decided to turn it down."

Almario said he believes the meeting that Pineda was trying to set had something to do with the *jueteng* scandal and the congressional inquiry. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Hog dealers sign pact to keep RP FMD-free

LIPA CITY—Over 20 major hog dealers and traders based in the Calabarzon region on Wednesday signed a covenant of support to the national government's efforts to keep the country free from the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

The covenant signing, held at the Luntian Resort and Restaurant here, coincided with the awarding ceremonies for the Search for Model Viajeros given by the National FMD Task Force (NFMDTF) of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

The awards, the first in the country, cited outstanding traders in each of the five provinces of the region for their efforts in combating FMD in the hog trading industry.

In their manifesto of support, the group of hog dealers assured BAI that they would abide by the agency's rules and regulations regarding the safe transport of meat to prevent the possible spread of FMD in slaughterhouses and piggeries.

The group likewise promised to help the NFMDTF in the campaign to raise public awareness about the viral disease which commonly afflicts clove-hoofed animals like pigs, cow, carabaos and other ruminants.

During the ceremonies, Onofre Hosmillo, the outstanding trader in Batangas, said they would assist in encouraging other hog dealers to promote strict compliance with the government's safety measures regarding the transport of meat products.

He admitted that meat dealers like him are often blamed for the spread of the FMD virus.

Dr. Victor Atienza, NFMDTF chief, said the cooperation of the hog traders would greatly help efforts to make the Philippines an FMD-free country.

He said the awards rites was the first government campaign against FMD in almost 10 years and was part of the campaign to "win over traders to our side."

"The whole industry, especially the traders, should understand that FMD is a disease that afflicts not just pigs but the country as well. It is an economic disease and a barrier to trade," Atienza told the INQUIRER.

He said keeping the whole Calabarzon area FMD-free was very important as the region supplies 25 percent of the whole demand for meat of the entire Luzon island.

Half of the demand for meat of Luzon comes from the Visayas and Mindanao which are already internationally recognized as FMD-free areas, he added. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

P. Galera bans smoking

No Smoking!
eek

CITY OF CALAPAN—A municipal ordinance prohibiting smoking in Puerto Galera is now being implemented in different offices there. According to the provincial information office, Mayor Aristeo Atienza said he has put up a billboard of reminder. He said he hoped that before his term ends, the municipal board will be able to pass an ordinance prohibiting the selling of cigarettes in establishments as he dreams of a nonsmoking municipality.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Environmental awards

CITY OF CALAPAN—The provincial evaluation team has started its search for the cleanest, most orderly and greenest town and city in the province. The contest has two categories: A—for first to third class municipalities, and under B—fourth to sixth class municipalities. Included in the evaluation are markets, ports, landmarks, mangroves, community gardens and herbal gardens, ornamental plants, daycare centers, barangay health centers, dumps and slaughterhouses. For the cleanest and greenest coastal barangay, garbage management will be inspected. Prizes are P150,000 for the municipal category; P75,000 for the cleanest and greenest coastal and inland barangay, and P75,000 for the cleanest inland bodies of water. Awarding of winners will be on the foundation anniversary of the province on Nov. 15.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Trader shot dead

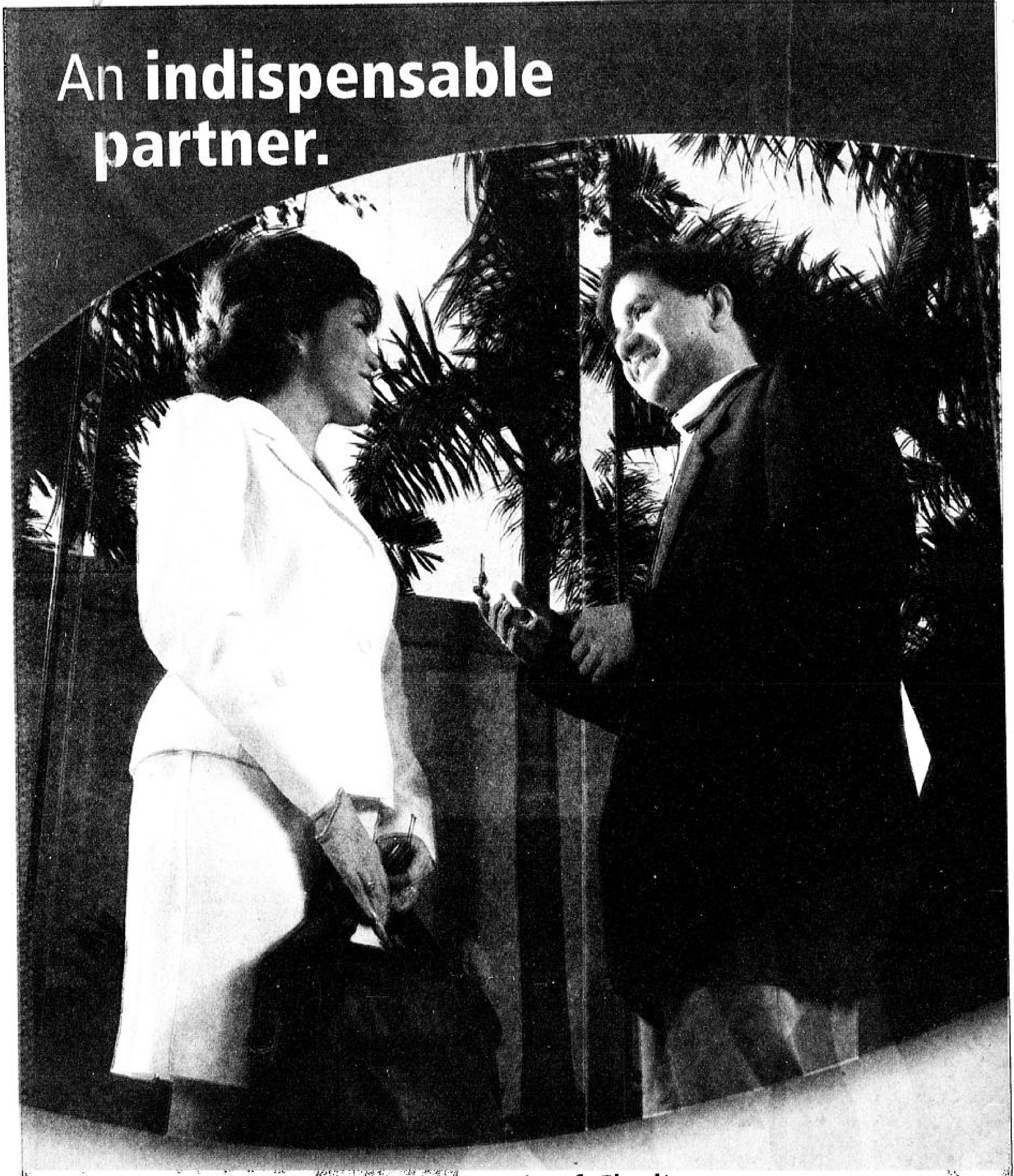
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A trader was shot and killed in an ambush on Monday by two men in Barangay San Nicolas in Lubao town, a police official said. Supt. Edwin Mangiliman, Lubao police chief, said Armando Limpin, 56, was on his way to his fishponds in Sasmuan town when he was waylaid. Mangiliman said the suspects, who were armed with .45 cal. and 9mm guns, were aboard a white car without a license plate.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Case vs ex-cop filed

SARANGANI—Police filed another criminal case against a former policeman who was tagged as one of the leaders of a robbery gang operating in the highway boundary of Sarangani and General Santos City. Senior Supt. Efren Valeriano, provincial police chief, identified the suspect as Paul Bedrejo, formerly a police officer 3 assigned to the Sultan Kudarat provincial police office. Valeriano said Bedrejo was dismissed from the police service in 2003 due to charges of misuse of government property, grave misconduct and dishonesty. Police raided Bedrejo's residence last week. Valeriano said the suspect did not show any sign of resistance during the arrest. The suspect is facing a case of highway robbery before a local court in Sarangani. He was also one the suspects in the robbery of a Coca-Cola delivery truck a few months ago where an estimated P40,000 in cash was taken from the truck driver. During a confrontation, victims of a series of robbery along the highway boundary of General Santos and Sarangani positively identified Bedrejo as one of the suspects. The court set a P200,000 bail for the suspect's temporary liberty. Valeriano said his men are still conducting a follow-up operation to capture the suspect's companions.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau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GMA: This is not a popularity contest

From page A1

beating but said this would not stop her from doing her job.

"This is not a popularity contest, this is a contest for improving the life of our population. My (popularity rating) may be down but my resolve has never been higher," she said at an event for diplomats and Filipinos living in the United States.

Wearing her trademark Marian blue suit, Ms Arroyo said her pro-poor agenda had been steadily gaining ground and accused the political opposition of trying to wreck what she had accomplished.

Challenge to opposition

"I challenge my opposition to show their true colors. Show me the plan. You don't have one and even if the people don't like me right now, neither will they follow a road that leads to nowhere."

Various opposition groups, which are united in wanting Ms Arroyo out but fragmented on what step to take next, staged its biggest rally yet on Wednesday, with analysts saying she might be threatened if her foes could beef up the turnout for their rallies.

But Ms Arroyo, undeterred by pressure on her to step down, pledged to fight her opponents "every step of the way."

"If they want unrest in the streets, I will enforce the law. I will stop any violence that threatens the rule of law," Ms Arroyo said.

The daughter of the late President Diosdado Macapagal accused her detractors of undermining the country's gains and dividing the country "for their own motives."

"This fight isn't about me, it's about working within the rule of law and the virtue of democracy that we share with many countries, especially the United States," she said.

Ms Arroyo said the Philippines was "absolutely not" on the brink of disaster, but acknowledged it was in a period of "national soul-searching."

"I will stand firm to turn the economy around, work to earn the trust of the people and defend democracy," she added. "At the end of the day, I am fighting for the average Filipino, not the privileged Filipino."

Ms Arroyo also noted that the financial markets had shown improvement despite the turmoil. The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index yesterday climbed 25.42 points, or 1.4 percent, to close at 1,879.46 after falling 0.8 percent on Wednesday.

The peso also strengthened to 55.88 against the US dollar at the Philippine Dealing System, up from 56.15 on Wednesday.

Filipino-Americans who heard Ms Arroyo lauded her fiery speech.

"Protests are common in many places and I think she'll stand for what's right," Guam State Sen. Michael Cruz said, adding that the President was able to address her points "very well."

"I think that's how she should approach it," Cruz added.

Gimmicks revived

In her speech before the visiting Filipino-Americans, Ms Arroyo also said the national government would pay for the premium of 8 million Philhealth cards that was distributed during last year's campaign.

"The Philippine national government gave the first year's premium with the hope that the local government will give the second year's premiums for indigents. But because these programs have become valuable for the local governments that are not able to provide the premium for another year, the national government will help to renew that insurance," she said.

The renewal of the Philhealth cards is expected to cost at least P4 billion. This, however, is likely to be welcomed by poor Filipinos who received Philhealth cards last year but could not pay for the second year premium on their cards that lapsed between February and March this year.

The Philhealth card gives recipients benefits such as room and board allowance, services of health care professionals, as well as diagnostic, laboratory and other medical examination services through accredited hospitals.

Emergency employment

Ms Arroyo also disclosed her plan to revive her emergency employment program during the campaign period last year. Under the program bankrolled by the road users' tax, jobless adults and out-of-school youths will be hired to clean and maintain roads.

"I have a budget of P2 billion for that. One part of it will go to the pavement (rehabilitation) which has to be done more professionally by the companies but the other part are things that can be done manually. We hope that after it worked so well last year, it will also work this year to help reduce the unemployment problem," she said.

Nearly 10 out of 100 Filipinos are unemployed, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

The President said the government could afford to undertake these two projects despite her policy to cut expenditures in the face of the budget deficit.

"With the increased tax collection from our phase one reforms (the increase in taxes on beer and cigarettes), we can now focus more money on things that will hopefully affect the poor more directly," she said.

NECKLACE symbolizing good fortune, peace and prosperity is conferred on President Arroyo by a leader of the Subanon tribe during a courtesy call by Mindanao tribal leaders expressing full support for her presidency.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Show of force in pro-GMA rally

IN THE face of an impasse at the political front, President Arroyo's allies are planning a show of force with a big rally at the Rizal Park in Manila on Saturday.

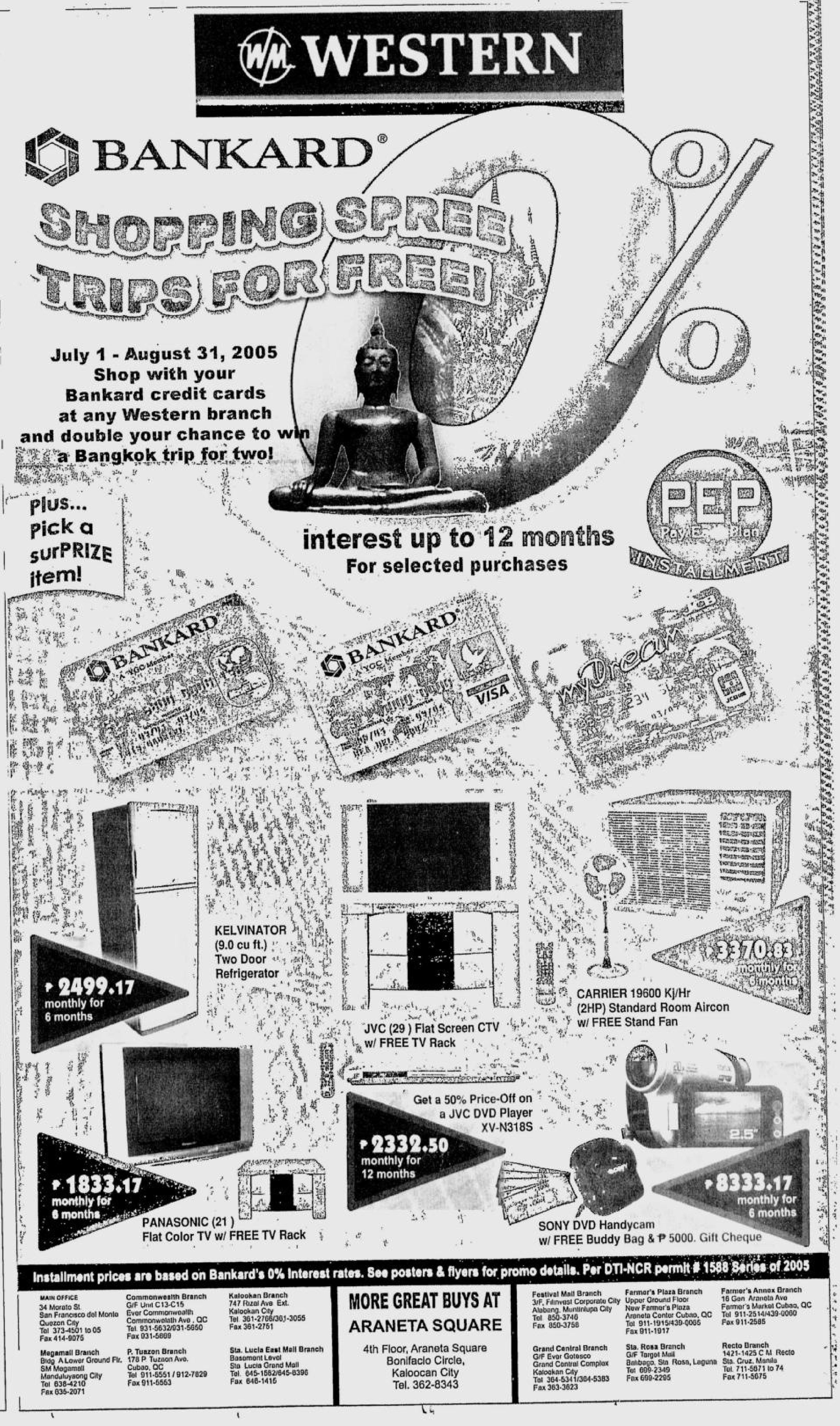
"The weekend rally will be attended by peace-loving citizens who wish to see that constitutional processes are followed in resolving the raging political conflict dividing the country, rather than resorting to extra-constitutional schemes that would lead to bigger problems," Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. said in a statement.

Atienza said Metro Manila mayors and lawmakers, and members of the Church, civil society, and student groups would attend the prayer rally.

The mayor said 12 Metro Manila mayors and nine congressmen representing the neighboring cities and towns in the metropolis had signed a manifesto appealing for a peaceful and legal resolution of the charges against Ms Arroyo.

Among the Metro Manila mayors who signed the Manifesto for Peace and Rule of Law were Atienza, Imelda Aguilar of Las Piñas, Feliciano Belmonte of Quezon City, Florencio Bernabe of Parañaque, Rosendo Capco of Pateros, Enrico Echiverri of Caloocan City, Vicente Eusebio of Pasig City, Marides Fernando of Marikina City, Jaime Fresnedi of Muntinlupa City, Sherwin Gatchalian of Valenzuela City, Neptali Gonzales of Mandaluyong City, and Sigfrid Tinga of Taguig.

The Metro Manila lawmakers who signed the manifesto were Mandaluyong Rep. Benjamin Abalos Jr., Valenzuela Rep. Emmanuel Carlos (1st district), Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor Jr. (3rd district), Pasay Rep. Consuelo Dy, Manila Rep. Ernesto Nieva (1st district), Manila Rep. Miles Roces (3rd district), Malabon Rep. Federico Sandoval II, Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita (1st district), Manila Rep. Rudy Bacani (4th district), Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante (6th district) and Marikina Rep. Del de Guzman. *With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*



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Back to battle of tapes

From page A1

ted he was caught in the wiretap as well.

"It was very clear in those tapes that I was asking about the areas where Fernando Poe Jr. and the opposition were losing, since the person I was talking to kept providing me with information on where they were leading," said Estrada.

Ms Arroyo has confessed hers is the voice caught in the wiretap talking with an election commissioner, which the opposition says is evidence she cheated in the 2004 election. Ms Arroyo has apologized for the "lapse in judgement" but vehemently denied she committed fraud.

Ms Arroyo's confession has sparked calls for her resignation, desertion of seven key Cabinet secretaries, the breakaway of political allies and the worst crisis in her 4-year-old administration.

Earlier on Wednesday, Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said an enhanced copy of the wiretap showed that Ms Arroyo uttered the words *"yung dagdag, yung dagdag,"* referring to vote-padding.

Cayetano challenged the government to submit the tape to a reputable firm for authentication and if the President's voice was confirmed, the Chief Executive should resign immediately.

But House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the tapes might not be authentic.

"It could be an enhanced fake tape. Who knows? The source looks polluted and not authentic. The conversation may have been subjected also to "dagdag," or padding, by the opposition, to bolster or suit their poll fraud charges against the President," said Nograles.

Rep. Prospero Pichay said he was told by a source he described as reliable but did not name that the "dagdag" phone call was "created" in the office of an opposition leader.

"From a platform of high moral ground, they're even enhancing it by additionally tampering with the tape. They're not putting words into the mouth but putting words into the garbled portions of the tape. Do they have any conscience at all?" said Pichay.

Moral dishonesty

He said that the opposition had been "playing and replaying" the tapes, "and when they couldn't find any incriminating evidence against the President, they added a new dialogue."

ILOCOS Sur Gov. Chavit Singson, a close ally of President Arroyo, presents a counter tape during a press conference hastily called on Thursday afternoon. RYAN LIM

"This is the highest form of moral dishonesty," said Pichay.

Cayetano said the opposition lawmakers were not "splice boys," insisting that the "dagdag" conversation was not a new feature in the "Hello Garci" tapes.

"This is not an enhanced tape. This is a copy of the tapes submitted to committees. You can actually buy these CDs anywhere. The "dagdag" is clear ... not to protect the votes but to pad votes," said Cayetano.

He said what actually occurred was a case of "bawas" since the phrase was omitted in the transcript of CD recordings submitted by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye to the joint committee.

Broken speakers

On Wednesday, Cayetano had told lawmakers inquiring into the wiretapping that the transcript of recordings submitted by Alan Paguia, Estrada's former lawyer, suspiciously omitted the "dagdag" phrase.

The transcript, released by the House committee on public information chaired by Rep. Gilbert Remulla, showed that the "dagdag" phrase was substituted with the word "unintelligible" in parenthesis.

Remulla himself ordered the secretariat to review the Paguia tapes and rectify if there was any omission after Cayetano said that the "dagdag" phrase was intelligible using other disc players.

Interviewed by GMA-7's "24 Oras," Environment Secretary Mike Defensor yesterday taunted the opposition to have the tape examined and make a wager to swiftly end the political stalemate. He said that if tests showed that the President uttered the word "dagdag," she would resign.

Cayetano bravely accepted the challenge, inviting Ms Arroyo to sign an "undertaking."

Truth test

"For the sake of God and country, all of us must sacrifice ... and end the political crisis that can go into a full-blown economic crisis," said Cayetano.

Cayetano and Representatives Joel Villanueva, Rolex Sulpico and Teofisto Guingona III drafted the undertaking titled "The Voluntary Trust Test," which requires all those who will sign it to quit their post if they were proven wrong by results of a "test and analysis of the audio recording conversations."

The document requires Ms Arroyo to waive her rights under the Anti-Wiretapping Act by agreeing to submit the audio "to a reputable audio laboratory acceptable to both parties for analysis or authentication."

"We will resign if we were proven wrong," said Villanueva, explaining that the country's leaders should have "palabra de honor and delicadeza."

Interpretations

Administration Rep. Douglas Cagas said even if authentic, the tapes were subject to several interpretations.

"The President may have just been asking '*baka may planong dagdag bawas ang kalaban*.' Just because the word 'dagdag' was uttered does not mean there was a directive to pad the President's votes. Let's be careful in interpreting every word in the tape. As House probers, we should exercise prudence in dealing with every material," said Cagas.

Fellow administration Rep. Monico Puentevella said the word "dagdag" was not conclusive "since it may also mean '*dagdag' para kay FPJ yon*' that's why the President wanted a closer monitoring of the polls."

He asked why Cayetano had come out with the enhanced tape only now. "Is it because it has been newly produced? *Kasi baka 'dagdag' din yan nila para mapasama si* GMA. Why come out with this only now?" asked Puentevella.

Congress blamed for EVAT woes in SC hearing

From page A1

ously exempt sectors like petroleum products, electricity, fares for air and sea travel, medical and legal services, and works of art. It also raises the corporate income tax from 32 percent to 35 percent.

Three international rating agencies have downgraded their outlook on the Philippines because of the possibility that President Macapagal-Arroyo administration could not implement the VAT law amid the political crisis.

During the oral arguments yesterday several justices said there could have been no "undue delegation of (tax) power" to the President by Congress because the law did not give the President the "discretion" to raise VAT rates as soon as the conditions for the increase are met.

The new VAT law (Republic Act No. 9337) retains the VAT rate at 10 percent for the next six months but allows the President to raise the rate to 12 percent under certain conditions.

Under the law, the President can only exercise the standby power when VAT collection as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) of the previous year exceeds 2 4/5 percent and when the deficit as a percentage of GDP of the previous year exceeds 1 1/2 percent.

The President can raise taxes only upon the recommendation of the finance secretary, who shall have determined that the conditions have been met.

"What Congress had done is to practically hide behind the skirt of the President," said Rene B. Gorospe who argued for the party-list group, one of the four petitioners questioning the constitutionality of the law.

The "delegation of the taxing power" to the President is unconstitutional because only Congress enjoys such power, which emanates from the principle that there should be no taxation without representation, Gorospe said.

Such move, according to the Abakada Guro lawyer, goes against the principle of "republicanism," which gives members of Congress taxing powers because they are directly in contact with and accountable to the people.

SUPREME COURT justices are in place to hear the oral arguments on VAT and test the theory of the petitioners. REM ZAMORA

"What they did ... is something which was a betrayal of their own offices," he said, adding that Congress should not have passed on the responsibility of increasing taxes to the President.

When he was subjected to more than two hours of grilling by justices of the Supreme Court, Gorospe was forced to abandon his claim that there was undue delegation of powers to the President.

No choice

This came after several justices said that the President had "no choice" but to increase the VAT rate because the law says the President should do so when the conditions were met.

Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban said the law was clear that if there was "factual determination" that the conditions for the increase had been met, then the President should increase the VAT rate. "So, where is the undue delegation there?" he asked.

Panganiban said the law was in fact "complete" and there was no undue delegation. When Gorospe answered in the affirmative, Panganiban said: "You just destroyed your entire argument."

Associate Justice Antonio Carpio agreed, saying that the law left the President with "no discretion whatsoever" to increase or not to increase VAT when the conditions are met.

When Associate Justice Romeo Callejo Jr. raised the same issue, Gorospe replied: "Yes, there is no delegation (of power) considering the language of the law."

Testing opposition's theory

Both Carpio and Panganiban concluded that with the way the provision on the tax rate increase was stated, it was really Congress which was deemed to have mandated the increase in the rate.

Arguing later with Luis Ma. Gil L. Gana, lawyer of the group of minority senators who also questioned the legality of the VAT Law, Associate Justice Reynato Puno said the conditions on the VAT rate increase only involved "mathematical computation, with no discretion involved" on the part of the President.

Puno was quick to add that the "questions of the justices do not mean (that that was their) views."

"We're just testing your theory," he told Gana, who echoed Gorospe's views.

Burdensome to dealers

Taking his turn in arguing the case of petroleum dealers, Carlos Baniqued said the 70-percent VAT cap was burdensome for a number of industries, especially those who have profit margins falling below 30 percent.

"That is unreasonable and oppressive, as it amounts to deprivation of property without due process," Baniqued said.

Baniqued explained that input VAT credits were a taxpayer's property and that the taxpayer's right to claim that credit should not be interfered with.

He presented before the high court a common petroleum dealer's profit and loss statement showing that a petroleum dealer only pays a VAT of 7 centavos under the present VAT system. But with the implementation of the 70-percent cap, the VAT liability of a petroleum dealer would increase to 84 centavos.

The 70-percent VAT cap means that in one year, a taxpayer can only claim input VAT credits up to a maximum amount equivalent to 70 percent of one's output VAT.

Input VAT is the amount of VAT shouldered by a taxpayer when it purchases goods or services whose costs include the 10-percent VAT. Output VAT is one's own VAT liability equivalent to 10 percent of gross sales.

Retrenchment and shutdown

Under the present system, businesses and professionals can deduct all of their input VAT credits from their output VAT to have a smaller VAT liability. With the VAT cap, the input VAT credits that businesses can claim in one year will be limited to 70 percent of their output VAT. The remaining 30 percent can be claimed in the next taxable year.

"The unutilized input VAT credit will just pile up year after year. This can result in shutdown, retrenchment and unemployment," Baniqued said.

Baniqued also said the provision imposing the spread of input VAT credits from purchase of capital equipment over a five-year period, and the one requiring a 5-percent final VAT on sales to government would be another means of interfering with the right of taxpayers to claim the credits that are due them.

The former provision means that a business that purchases a capital equipment worth P1 million can only claim the input VAT credit from the purchase in installments over a five-year period.

The latter means that businesses, when they sell a good or a service to a government entity, should pay a final VAT equivalent to 5 percent no matter how much input VAT credits it has.

For their part, the associate justices challenged Baniqued to prove that the three provisions were unconstitutional.

Pass on tax

Panganiban said the fact that the VAT law allowed businesses to pass on the tax to consumers meant that they should not feel the burden at all. "If you have no way of recouping it (then the provisions can be unconstitutional), but there seems to be a business remedy," he said.

Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing also questioned the claim of petroleum dealers that the 5-percent final tax was oppressive. Given that the VAT rate was actually at 10 percent, "is not that (5-percent VAT) favorable to you?" he said.

In response, Baniqued said petroleum dealers would have to shoulder a higher VAT liability with the 5-percent final VAT on gross sales rather than with the 10-percent VAT.

He explained that with the latter, businesses could claim input VAT credits, and therefore their actual VAT liability could even be lower than with the former.

At press time late last night, the oral arguments were still going on.

The high court is set to decide on the TRO in a month's time following yesterday's oral arguments.

Cory denies shouting match with Gloria

From page A1

never any shouting either from her or from me," Aquino said in a speech at the Catholic-run St. Scholastica's College in Manila.

She repeated her earlier statement to the INQUIRER that there was no shouting match between her and the President on Thursday night last week when they parted ways.

"While it is true that I did ask her to make the supreme sacrifice of resigning, there was never any shouting either from her or from me. In fact, we even kissed each other when we said goodbye. There were others present during that meeting and if necessary they can be asked to give their own account," Aquino said.

Some 40,000 protesters massed in Makati on Wednesday. The number was far from the massive crowds that toppled Marcos—and later unseated President Joseph Estrada—but organizers vowed to hold more rallies until Ms Arroyo resigned. Plans were being made for a huge protest on July 25 when the President makes her State of the Nation Address at the opening of Congress.

Expectation exceeded

"The reality exceeded our expectation. It should show the administration that the survey results are correct," said Lito Anzures, referring to recent polls showing rock-bottom popularity ratings for Ms Arroyo. "She no longer has the moral mandate," he said.

Anzures, spokesperson for Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, gave a higher crowd estimate of 70,000 coming from various moderate and leftist parties and opposition groups. ***(See related story on page A2)***

They were entertained by singers and the Sex Bomb dancers until Susan Roces, widow of movie Fernando Poe Jr., addressed them. "With God's help," Roces said, "we will solve our problems through peaceful means."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said he "felt awkward" during the rally in the company of high profile leftist leaders that included party list representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño.

"I was overwhelmed by the feeling to right a wrong. I felt I had to contribute something to the country, and the only way was to stand up and speak up ... So that feeling of awkwardness was answered by the feeling to contribute to the demands for (Ms Arroyo's) resignation," Lacson said.

Cash coupons

Binay denounced what he said were attempts to tarnish the credibility of the rally. This came after participants called City Hall's attention to "cash coupons" distributed a few hours before the rally was to end. The light pink coupons bore Makati's official seal, and was supposedly worth P300.

"This is an amateurish attempt to discredit the thousands who came to Ayala on their own, some of them even walking long distances just to show their unity behind the movement to remove Mrs. Arroyo," Binay said in a statement.

After Wednesday's rally ended peacefully, the military reverted to its alert station from red to its lowest level, white.

GMA suspect

Also yesterday, Education Secretary Florencio Abad bade farewell to his staff following his resignation last week along with six other Cabinet members. He reiterated his calls on Ms Arroyo to resign.

"People cannot bear the thought that we have a President who is a suspect in electoral cheating. Presumed innocent, perhaps, but suspect nonetheless. She must take responsibility for solving this crisis which she caused. So she should resign," Abad said. ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan, Alcuin Papa and TJ Burgonio***

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Coast Guard rescues sea turtle off Manila Bay

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE Coast Guard (PCG) has rescued an endangered sea turtle (*pawikan*) discovered by residents of the Baseco compound in Manila on Wednesday afternoon.

The two-foot-long green and brown turtle was believed to have been tagged by marine groups monitoring the sea creatures because of a wire hook on its back.

However, the tag seemed to have been lost, according to Arthur Garcia, a regional technical director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

He said the sea turtle had no external injuries. But he could not determine its age or type, adding that the wildlife rescue center would do that.

The PCG transferred custody of the turtle to Garcia yesterday. It was the second one to be rescued in Manila this year, said PCG spokesperson Lt. Armand Balilo.

PCG operatives from the National Capital Region patrolling the Manila Bay proceeded to the area when they heard about the turtle.

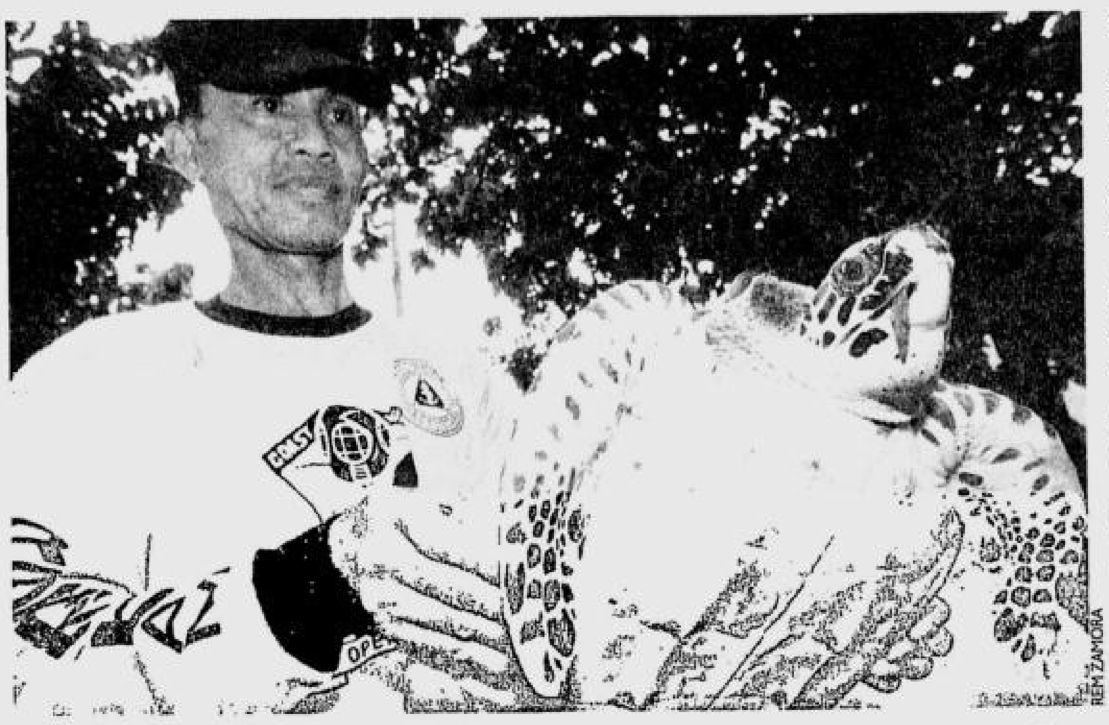
Balilo said the agency rescued sea turtles immediately to prevent people from killing them for meat.

Garcia said the turtle might have been looking for a new habitat. He advised people who would come across a sea turtle to immerse it in salt water immediately.

They should then inform the authorities and hand over the reptile to the wildlife rescue center.

Garcia said mere possession of a sea turtle, an endangered and protected species, was already considered a criminal offense.

Sea turtles are hunted primarily for their meat and shell. But there are people who believe that their eggs are an aphrodisiac. The animals' nesting sites, usually beaches, are also threatened by the destruction of the environment.


REM ZAMORA

IN SAFE hands, a sea turtle (*pawikan*) found by residents living near the shores of Manila Bay will be turned over by the Coast Guard to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Waste project meet reels off in Munti

SOLID Waste Management (SWM) officials from different cities and municipalities in Metro Manila convened at the Muntinlupa City Hall yesterday to exchange ideas on how to effectively implement the city's own 10-year SWM plan.

The assembly, the 4th LGU Consultative Meeting on the Solid Waste Management and Door-to-Door Collection Project, also allowed SWM officials to map other possible garbage dumps the cities could use in the future.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando and Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi headed the list of officials in the assembly.

Jocelyn R. Uy

DENR hits Rizal mayor for use of logs

By Blanche S. Rivera and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE MAYOR of Rodriguez, Rizal, has been tagged in illegal logging activities in the province by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and could face criminal and administrative charges.

The DENR yesterday recommended the filing of charges against Mayor Pedro Cuerpo for allegedly allowing the delivery of P1.5 million worth of illegally cut timber from Bulacan to Rizal.

Cuerpo reportedly issued an authorization for the transport of 1,062 pieces of red and white lauan and narra to be used for chairs for a Montalban public school, despite a log ban in the region.

The timbers were seized by a DENR team assisted by San Jose del Monte (Bulacan) Vice Mayor Reynaldo San Pedro on June 22.

In a memorandum, DENR Region 3 Director Regidor de Leon said Cuerpo had issued an undated authorization to a certain Carlito Ciriaco "to haul and pick up assorted logs from Barangay Puray" that would be used by the mayor's office for a public school.

De Leon said the logs appeared to have been taken from the Angat Watershed Basin, a protected area where logging had been banned.

The DENR said most of the timber came from the Angat pilot project area, a reforestation site in Barangay San Isidro, Bulacan, that could only be accessed through Rodriguez, passing through Barangay Puray, where the logs were seized.

"Mayor Cuerpo is culpable for usurpation of authority in violation of Article 238 of the Revised Penal Code," De Leon said in a statement. Even local executives had no authority to allow the transport of illegally sourced timber, he added.

"We are also looking into Cuerpo's liability for violation of Presidential Decree No. 705 for possible illegal logging charges, considering that the document he signed resulted in the unauthorized transport of illegally sourced wood products," De Leon added.

Cuerpo could face up to eight years in prison for his administrative liability, the agency said.

The DENR has banned logging and the transportation of logs in 13 regions in the country, including Central Luzon, since March.

But an angry Cuerpo said he had not done anything illegal, adding that he was ready to face the charges. "This way, we will see who is not doing his job," he told the INQUIRER.

The mayor said the DENR could be referring to the logs he had been using to make armchairs and beds. The chairs are being distributed to schools while the beds are given to municipal jail inmates, Cuerpo said.

The logs used in the project were confiscated by the municipal government from their operations against illegal logging, the mayor added.

Hitting back, Cuerpo said: "It is the responsibility of the DENR to prevent illegal logging, to make sure trees are preserved. Yet, we continue to find illegal logs. Whose fault is it then?"

36 EPD cops under fire

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ERRING policemen, beware.

The Eastern Police District has imposed sanctions against 36 of its policemen for various violations in the last six months. Nine of the policemen face dismissal from the service.

"We are trying to speed up the administrative proceedings against these erring men in uniform," police director Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela said.

The violations range from tardiness to possible involvement in a daring robbery last April.

One policeman faces demotion from Senior Police Officer 1 to Police Officer 3. Twenty-six policemen, on the other hand, will receive reduced paychecks.

The police district has also recommended the dismissal of at least nine policemen: Five had not been reporting for work (absent without official leave), while the other four, all from the Pasig City Police, were accused of robbing a money-changer messenger.

The National Capital Region Police Office would decide whether or not to uphold the recommendation, or to conduct further investigation.

In a statement, the police district said the campaign against its own erring policemen was a way to instill discipline among them.

Police officials have long acknowledged that, unlike their counterparts in other countries, the local national police do, not project a good image to citizens.

Many perceive policemen to be corrupt, partly because of incidents in the past when policemen were found to be involved in criminal activities like extortion, robbery and even kidnapping.

Movie too horrific?

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A MAN was found dead late Tuesday night inside a Manila shopping mall theater showing a Japanese horror movie.

The Western Police District identified the victim as Danilo Garcia of 1030 Samar St., Balic-Balic, Sampaloc, Manila.

According to SPO2 Virgo Villareal, security officer Romeo Ibrado was inspecting SM Manila's Cinema 6 after the last screening of "Campus Ghost Stories" when he saw the victim slumped in a chair.

Ibrado tried to wake Garcia up, but found that the victim was already dead. He theorized the man died during the last full show.

The police were then summoned, Villareal said.

The victim wore a blue T-shirt, shorts and slippers. An identification card was found in his pocket, Villareal added.

An initial examination showed no external injuries on the victim.

Villareal said the victim was taken to the Popular Morgue in Sta. Cruz for autopsy.

Anti-GMA rally today in Manila, urban centers

By DJ Yap

TODAY will be another "national day of protest."

Two days after the mammoth rally in Makati City that pressed for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation, the Akbayan Citizens' Action Party said protest actions would again be staged in Manila and other key urban centers.

Akbayan expects some 3,000 people to converge on España in Manila before marching toward Malacañang. Hundreds are also expected to take to the streets in Cebu, Davao, Bacolod, and General Santos cities, among others.

Akbayan "chair emeritus" Walden Bello said he was confident the series of protests would "drive President Macapagal-Arroyo out of office."

He added that the Makati rally was just the beginning of a "snowball" signaling the erosion of Arroyo's political support.

"What we saw yesterday (July 13) was just the beginning of a series of protests," he said.

Today's simultaneous protest activities would show that the "people have already made their decision" about allegations she rigged last year's polls, the militant party-list group said in a statement.

Akbayan president Ronald Llamas dismissed claims anti-Arroyo forces could not summon Edsa-like numbers by saying people power movements did not occur overnight.

He noted that when Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino died in 1983, it took the people three years before assembling on Edsa in 1986 in the revolution that toppled former President Ferdinand Marcos. Arroyo "had corrupted our political institutions and bastardized the very principles upon which our country is founded, " Llamas added. "The first step to reform the system is to remove GMA from office."

Caloocan curbs illegal price hikes

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ORDINANCES on fare hikes and wet market prices were strengthened by the Caloocan City government to prevent unscrupulous elements from taking advantage of the continuous price increases and the current political crisis.

"Business permits or licenses of violators would be canceled," said Mayor Enrico Echiverri, as he warned market retailers and drivers and operators of tricycle and pedicabs with an eye on illegal profits.

He said fare hikes should not be allowed without the approval of the local government.

Although incomes of drivers and operators were greatly affected by the oil price increase, Echiverri said they should file the proper petition for fare hikes with the City Council.

"An increase can only be imposed after a hearing and approval by the council," the mayor added.

The drivers and operators, he said, should coordinate with the Tricycle and Pedicab Regulatory Services of the city when they draw up their appeal.

"Rules and orderliness must be followed, and implementation of the sanctions should be strictly enforced," the mayor said.

The local government's market division was also ordered to monitor the city's public markets for cases of unreasonable price increases.

The monitoring team would ensure that price tags reflect the prevailing market price. "Retail outlets are required to display the prices of the basic commodities to avoid deception." Echiverri said.

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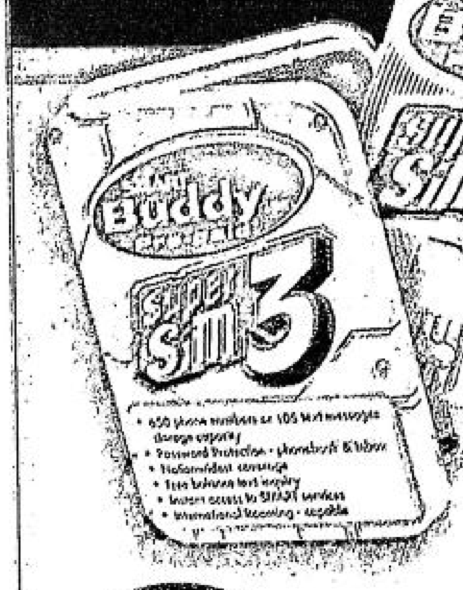

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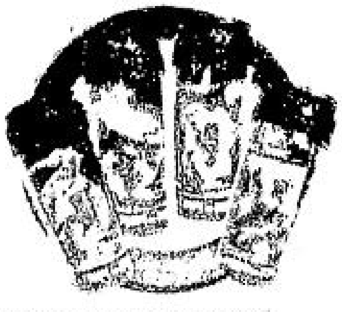

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Team Asia stars seize MVP Cup

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE VAUNTED Chinese connection clicked without fail last night as the superstars of Team Asia bested Team Europe, 11-7, to put away the first MVP Cup badminton championships at the PhilSports Arena.

Olympic champion Zhang Ning of China thrashed Chinese-born Yao Jie of the Netherlands, 11-8, 11-0, in the third women's singles, before compatriot and world No. 1 Lin Dan whipped Anders Boesen of Denmark, 15-1, 15-6, to contribute three points each to Team Asia's series-clinching victory.

The Asians won the champion's purse of $50,000 while the members of Team Europe settled for $30,000.

The continent's lopsided wins in the final two singles matches proved to be anti-climactic, even after the Europeans had forged ahead, 7-5, on their victory in mixed doubles at the expense of a lowly ranked pair of Filipino siblings.

The tournament's most-awaited match went to Britain's world No.1 pair of Nathan Robertson and Gail Emms who came from behind to wear down the hard-fighting Kennie and Kennievic Asuncion in a thrilling 12-15, 17-14, 15-1 decision.

"It was an incredibly tough game," said Robertson, who threw his racket into the gallery in delight after the match.

"I hope we won't face them in the first round of the World Championships (in August)."

Egged on by the thunderous cheers of their countrymen, the Asuncions furiously directed their shots at Emms and deftly set up smashes off her returns to take a stunning 7-1 advantage in the first set.

The Asuncions almost nailed the monumental upset in the next set by keeping the feather away from Robertson.

Still, the veteran Britons, silver medalists in the Athens Olympics, fought back without letup. They took a 13-10 lead before Kennievic jumped, dove and slid for four straight points for Team Asia, 14-13.

Fans were ready to embrace their newest heroes at match point, but the Filipino pair allowed Emms to come through with a quick drive to seize the momentum back for Europe.

It was all Europe's show from there as exhaustion got the better of the Filipinos.

"We were not thinking of winning right away," said Kennie of the wasted matchpoint. "We were more concerned about the rallies."

Robertson said their morale rose after overcoming match point.

"They were so close to winning the match in the second set, and it told heavily on them physically in the third," the British doubles specialist said.

Fagged out, Kennievic and Kennie suddenly stopped diving and chasing the feather.

"Playing against the No. 1 team (in the world) is an honor in itself," said Kennie of the pair which defeated them, 15-7, 15-7, during the 2003 Korean Open, an Athens Olympic qualifying tournament.

Emms and Robertson had nothing but praises for the Filipinos. "They played at a lot higher level tonight," Emms said.

"We were thinking of playing at a slow pace," said Robertson. "So they caught us by surprise when they played quick."

HEROIC: Kennie and Kennievic Asuncion chase a drop shot. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Team Asia still mighty sans Audina, 2 others

IF NOT for the residency rule, the Asians would have put away the MVP Cup Asia vs Europe badminton championships with ease.

That's because three of Europe's nine stars who saw action in the three-day duel were born and raised in Asia but have since opted to play for their adoptive countries in Europe—Mia Audina Tjiptawan, formerly of Indonesia, and Chinese-born Yao Jie and Pi Hongyan.

Audina moved to the Netherlands the year she won an Olympic silver medal for Indonesia in 1996 in Atlanta. She eventually won another silver in the Athens Olympics, earning the distinction of becoming the only player to have won Olympic medals for two different countries.

It's a different story for Pi. The 26-year-old looker emigrated to France because she couldn't fit into China's heavy talent pool.

"France had been offering me (to transfer) for more than a year," said the world's third-ranked women's singles player. "It was a big decision and I had to consult my family."

Under the rules of the International Badminton Federation, a player may opt to play for a new country after a two-year residency. It restricts a second transfer, however.

Yao, ranked fourth in the singles, was supposed to partner Audina in the women's doubles Wednesday, but Team Europe manager Martijn van Dooremalen picked England's Gail Emms instead.

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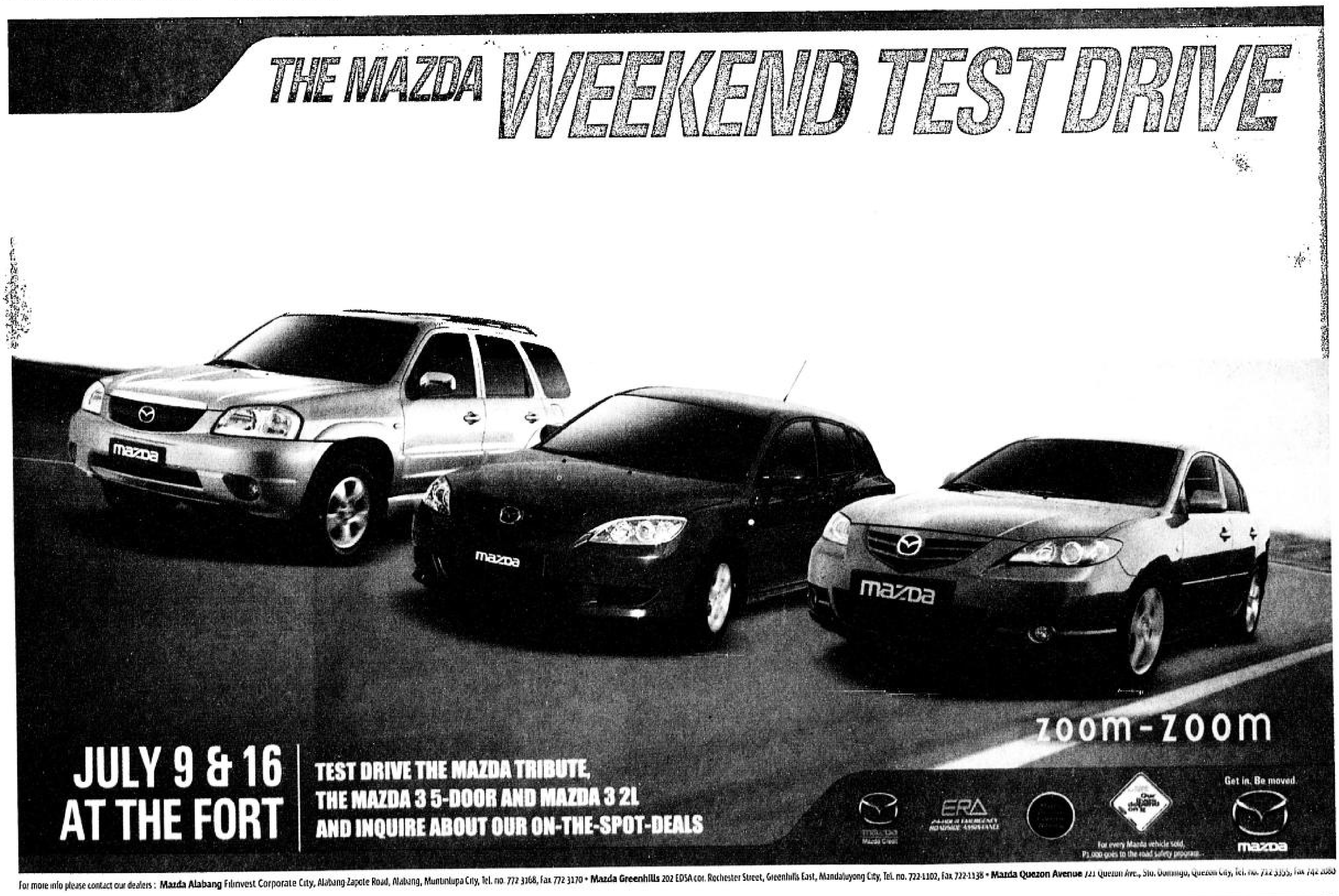
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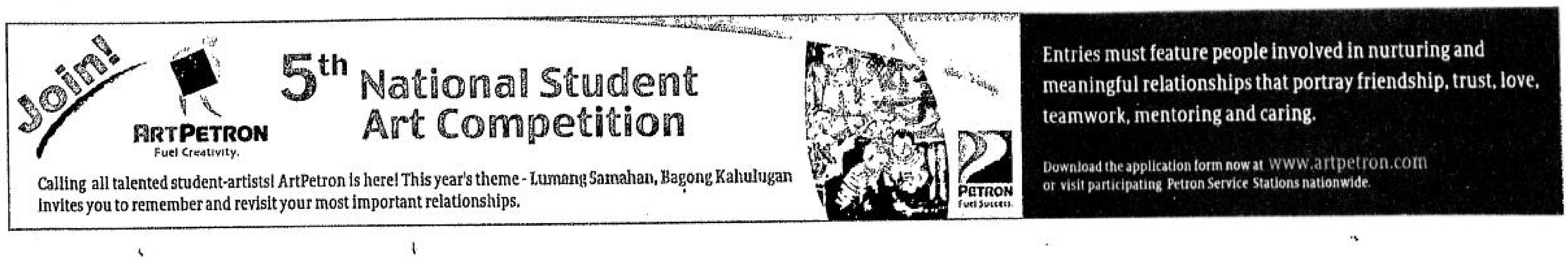
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Maroons shock Archers; UE wins

By Jasmine W. Payo

PROVING they're among the serious contenders, the University of the Philippines Maroons stunned the out-of-sync La Salle Archers, 61-56, yesterday in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Blue Eagle Gym in Ateneo.

"It was all heart," said coach Lito Vergara after UP took the solo lead at 2-0. "We wanted to prove something. Last year, we weren't able to make it in the Final Four because of La Salle."

Point guard Marvin Cruz fired 16 points for the Maroons, who last held a 2-0 start in 1997.

Earlier, the University of the East Warriors posted their first victory with a 71-64 decision of the resilient National University Bulldogs.

The Warriors withstood the Bulldogs' late rally behind playmaker Earn Saguindel and Jorel Cañizares, who delivered 12 points apiece.

"Cañizares played so well," said coach Dindo Pumaren of his 6-foot-3 rookie forward. "He gave us a lift with his offensive rebounds, his hustle, and he was diving for the ball."

The Archers struggled offensively—shooting just 27.8 percent from the field—after a strong performance in their 78-60 rout of the Ateneo Eagles.

In junior play, Daniel Olan's split free throws lifted the Junior Fighting Maroons past the Bengals, 66-65. Santos Marfori finished with 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Junior Maroons' second straight win.

The Pages downed the Bullpups, 60-57, behind Alex Noriega and Luigi Simbulan's combined 29 points.

The scores:

First Game

UE 71—Saguindel 12, Cañizares 12, Arellano 11, Espiritu 10, Labagala 8, Palaganas 7, Borboran 5, Custodio 4, Raymundo 2, Napo 0, Martinez 0, Lapena 0.

NU 64—Asoro 18, Fernandez 16, D. Catamora 8, Flor 6, Estolano 6, Malagueño 4,C. Catamora 4, Sanchez 2, Salvado 0, 0, Jahnke 0.

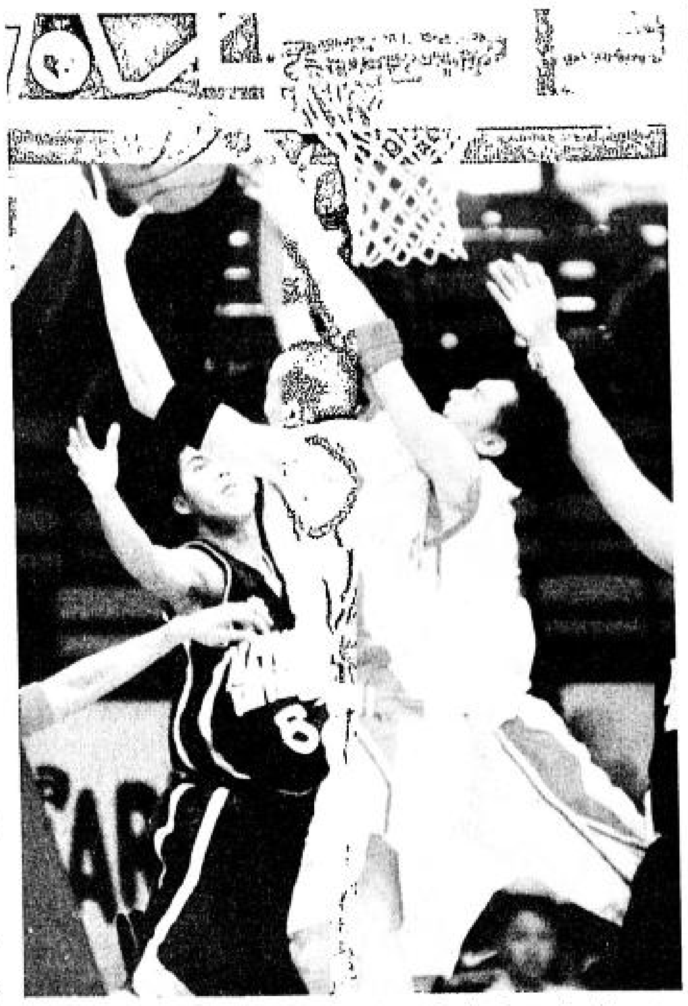
Quarters: 16-10, 26-31, 48-45, 71-64

Second Game

UP 61—Cruz 16, Santos 10, Doruelo 10, David 10, Ferrer 7, Valnio 5, Gavino 3, Quebral 0, Padolina 0, Epres 0, Agbayani 0.

LA SALLE 56—Casio 18, Cabatu 8, Tang 7, Araña 6, Malerhoffer 5, Yeo 4, Villanueva 4, Rivera 2, Benitez 2, Cua 0, Co 0, Aquino 0.

Quarters: 14-15, 31-27, 40-35, 61-56.



UE'S Elmer Espiritu (center) and Bonifacio Custodio dispute the rebound with the Bulldogs' Dave Catamora (5). RYAN LIM

STANDINGS	W	L
PCU	4	0
Letran	4	0
Mapua	4	0
Benilde	3	1
SSC	2	3
Perpetual	1	4
JRU	0	5
San Beda	0	5

GAMES TODAY
11:30 a.m.—St. Benilde vs Letran (Jrs)
2 p.m.—St. Benilde vs Letran (Srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs PCU (Srs)

Dolphins up for first acid test vs Cardinals

THE REAL test begins for the Philippine Christian U Dolphins when they battle the streaking Mapua Cardinals today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"We will be meeting unbeaten teams in our final games," said coach Junel Baculi as the defending champions vie to keep the top spot at 4 p.m. "I've been telling my players that we cannot just rely on talent because they're all talented teams. It will require a lot of teamwork."

The Letran Knights will also gun for a share of the lead when they clash against the resurgent St. Benilde Blazers at 2 p.m.

Playing to expectations, PCU and Letran have been invincible in four straight games. Mapua and St. Benilde, however, have proved to be the surprise performers early this season.

After failing to enter the Final Four last year, the Cardinals jumped out to a 4-0 start.

The Blazers, last season's doormat, opened at 3-1 with new coach Caloy Garcia steering the impressive turnaround.

The Dolphins, though, are still favored with the explosive Gabby Espinas in the fold.

Espinas delivered 27 points, 18 rebounds and three blocks in PCU's 68-51 triumph against Jose Rizal U recently. *Jasmine W. Payo*

PBA, unlike GMA, can still be saved

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

UNLIKE with beleaguered President Macapagal-Arroyo, they did not have to turn to pollsters to measure the unpopularity of the Philippine Basketball Association.

The last PBA championship series, won by mighty San Miguel Beer, showed what precious little has been left of the once enormous popularity of the pro league.

Bad enough that the title playoffs had been poorly attended.

But, after the PBA was made to play the final match of the season—Game 5 of the SMB-Talk 'N Text title series—at the decrepit Cuneta Astrodome, basketball devotees groaned in dismay.

It was like depositing an old, rundown sedan in the junkyard.

But even the smelly, smaller hoophouse in Sharon Cuneta's Pasay was only half-filled for the biggest PBA night of the season.

* * *

Wrote Reuel Vidal in his column at the Manila Standard Today, wherein he noted that, on the same day, all seats were taken at the Araneta Coliseum for a UAAP mainer:

"The TV ratings will be debatable but …in sharp contrast, the PBA played its year-ending championship game at the poorly kept Cuneta Astrodome, which was half-empty."

Well, in fairness to PBA commissioner Noli Eala, he obviously tried his best to end the season with a bang.

Too bad that the result of his efforts merited only a whimper.

At least, some of those who no longer bothered to watch the championship, a must for the Pinoy sports fan before, did find time to ask friends the morning after if San Miguel had already clinched the crown.

* * *

Frankly, it looked and felt as though that old loving feeling (for dear old PBA) is gone.

This is not to join the chorus of Noli Eala bashers, he'll always remain a respected friend.

At least, Noli is not going the way of his beloved President.

If the trust rating of President Arroyo continues to dip, she only has herself to blame. She's been her own biggest destabilizer.

Unfortunately, in the PBA, the sorry developments leading to the last championship had people in the Commissioner's Office wondering if an impeachment was also in the offing.

In truth, the clear call here is for Eala to put up a more relevant basketball theater.

If the fans had shied away from the pro league, it's because predictable games often produce hollow results.

They must be able to mount something monumental and memorable.

* * *

Look what they have achieved with the MVP Cup: Asia versus Europe badminton challenge.

Other than the presence of top international stars, there was quality competition, a time-tested chemistry that had fans rushing to the tournament site in Pasig.

This badminton classic clicked because it readily gained the trust and confidence of the sports-loving public.

Repeat: The PBA has not yet gone the way of the Arroyo government.

Yes, there are fewer people who believe in the PBA today, but this doesn't mean the league has to dissolve.

Commissioner Eala need not resign in order to restore faith in the pro league.

The PBA is not to blame for the raging disunity that now rips our nation apart.

* * *

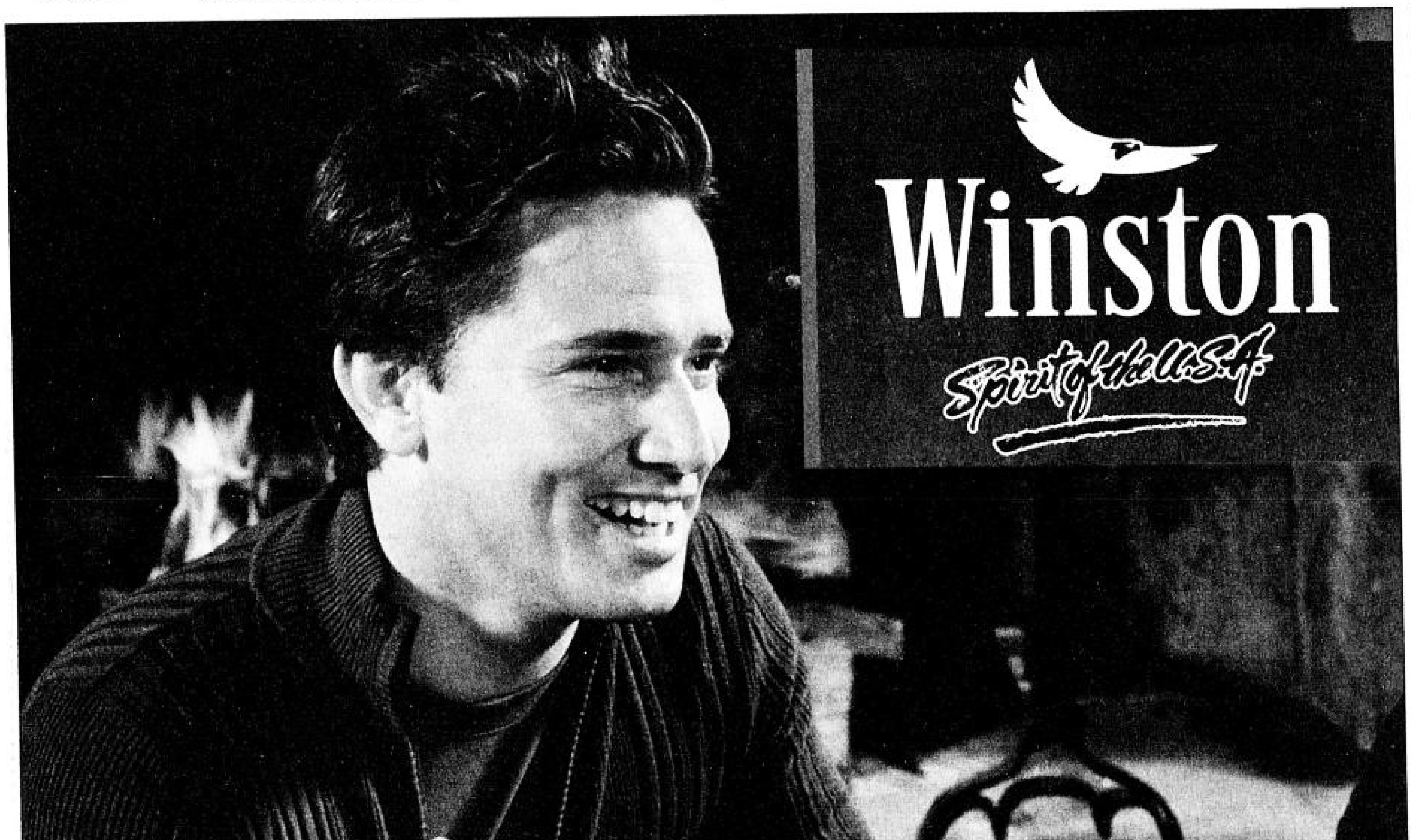
(URGENT TXTS: From Benjie A., consultant of a government agency whom we had met in Bohol three months ago: "Was wid 71 veggie farmer leaders from Sariaya, Dolores, Tiaong, Quezon dis lunch. All of dem were AGAINST Pgma. Dey all want her KICKED OUT. It's getting worse n worse." …Joseph Dumuk says: "What has happened in RP basketball is a classic example of applying a solution without looking at possible problems that could arise from the solution itself.")

ABC-5 keeps PBA television rights

TELEVISION network ABC-5 yesterday got a fresh mandate from the Philippine Basketball Association to cover the games for the next three years, with the pro league gaining an option to renegotiate the contract after each season.

The station, owned by Tonyboy Cojuangco, won over Solar Entertainment in a bidding. The PBA stands to earn close to P200 million from the contract, spread over three years.

"Aside from its track record, ABC-5 also offers unlimited access to airtime," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala. "The decision of the PBA board boiled down to who we feel has lesser risks and can offer greater benefits for the league." *June Navarro*



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Superal zeroes in on Jr World crown

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO, California—He asks for a steak meal every time. No wonder, Wolen Superal is turning a course considered long by his rivals into a drive-and-putt layout.

Superal was at it again Wednesday (Thursday in Manila), using his driver to the hilt in scoring a seven-under-par 67—on a course too short and easy for his power—to storm in front by four strokes in the boys' 11-12 years division with only 18 holes left in the Callaway Junior World Championships here.

Birdies on the first three holes got Superal on the attack mode and he went on to pick up five more, three coming from playing-eagle situations. His effort boosted the country's bid of clinching a 17th championship here.

Superal, still nursing a hip injury, finally yielded a stroke after 36 holes after he hit into a stymie on the 13th. But that hardly mattered as the bedimpled freshman at St. Francis of Assisi in Las Piñas strode home to a 17-under 131 total.

There will be a lot of catching up to do today for Superal's rivals, the nearest of whom were David Flyn (66-135) and Nond Ounmuang of Thailand (71-137).

SUPERAL celebrates a birdie on No. 3.

Chances of a double Philippine victory remained strong as the multititled Dottie Ardina moved within two shots in the girls' 11-12. Shooting a 70-142, Ardina could have made it to the top if not for a bogey on the par-5 17th.

In the other divisions, Abby Arevalo moved up to second place in the girls' 6-under division at Colina Park but she will be contending with a six-stroke deficit.

Andie Unson was third in the girls' 9-10 at Welk Resort, but already 12 down on the leader, and Princess Superal stayed in fourth, five shots off the pace, in the girls' 7-8 at Singing Hills-Pine Glen.

Wolen Superal, who is staying with Sam Samson of the Philippine consular services here, said he wants to atone for his disappointing finish two years ago.

"*Pipilitin ko po, gusto ko po talagang manalo* (I will try my best)," said Superal, who was leading the battle for the 9-10 category two years in the final round but ran into trouble and ended up fifth.

The Philippine entries:

Class A—M. Yee (75-148-T15), T. Asislio (78-153-T51), M. Alejandro (80-160-T121), M. Alejandro (80-160-T121); K. Uy (83-160-T55); B. dela Paz (80-163-T78), L. de Vila (79-164-T83).

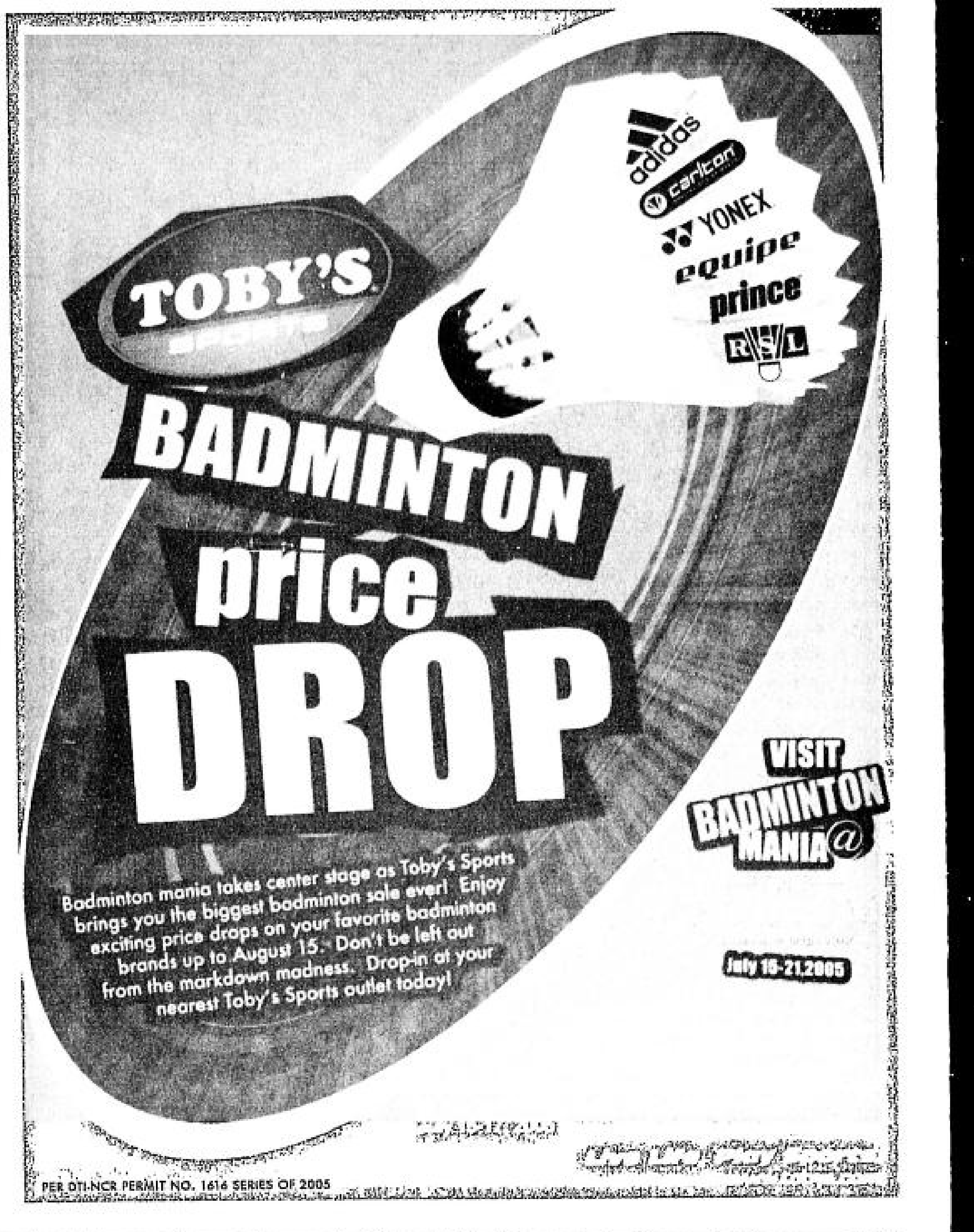
Class B—J. Abdon (76-153-T40), C. Mamaril (76-154-T47); D. de Vila (76-149-T7), M. Piccio (75-150-T9), C. Superal (74-153-T17), R. de Guzman (79-157-T31), C. Rodriguez (79-157-T31).

Class C—W. Superal (67-131), M. Puyat (70-141-8th); D. Ardina (70-142-4th), M. Legaspi (74-150-T14).

Class D—B. dela Paz (65-129-129-T6), M. Tabuena (66-135-T16), LJ Go (67-139-T29); A. Unson (63-132-T3), I. Gabasa (65-140-T12).

Class E—M. Yee (66-124-T7), AR Ramos (61-124-T7), M. Arevalo (61-126-T12); P. Superal (62-123-4th).

Class F—R. Monsalve (78-145-26th),M. Robles (75-155-T33); Z. Nieves (82-157-T35), M. A. Arevalo (62-121-2nd), LK Go (62-125-3rd), C. Legaspi (67-130-4th), J. Buen (73-137-5th).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Pacquiao battles Mexico's Velasquez Sept. 10 in LA

By Salven L. Lagumbay,
Contributor

PACQUIAO

MANNY Pacquiao and Erik Morales are scheduled to fight again. In separate bouts, in the same card.

Promoter Bob Arum revealed this Wednesday as he finally confirmed reports that the Filipino boxing icon will battle WBC Fecarbox featherweight champion Hector Velasquez on Sept. 10 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California.

The Pacquiao-Velasquez duel shares top billing with the showdown pitting Morales, who beat the Filipino in his last fight, against 1996 Olympian Zahir Raheem.

Should both Morales and Pacquiao come out victorious, Arum said he plans to pit the two in a much-awaited rematch in December.

"I think they're both (Zahir and Velasquez) tougher than you think," Arum told Boxingtalk. "Zahir Raheem has a tough style and the guy Pacquiao's fighting is also a tough customer."

The 5-7 Velasquez, a 30-year-old native of Tijuana, Mexico, parades a 41-10-2 win-loss-draw card with 30 KOs. He is on a four-bout winning streak since losing by decision to Rocky Juarez in 2003 for the vacant WBC Continental Americas featherweight title.

Between the two matchups, Morales is expected to have the tougher assignment as he faces ex-Olympian, once-beaten Raheem, who boasts of 26 victories with 16 KOs.

Among Raheem's victims was former WBC featherweight champ Luisito Espinosa, whom he stopped in the eighth round in 2002.

Pacquiao is slated to fly to Los Angeles in the last week of July to be at ringside when fellow Wild Card Gym fighter Brian Viloria, an American fighter of Filipino roots, goes for the WBC 108-lb crown against Eric Ortiz at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

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Philsoc assures sponsors

THE PHILIPPINE Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) is assuring the public that all solicitations and spending are being done with full transparency.

"Money received, whether [from] government or [the] private [sector], will be money well spent," said Philsoc chair Obet Pagdanganan. "All transactions are transparent, as they have to be."

The former Bulacan governor also said that the Philsoc is being helped by a team of volunteers from the respected Sycip, Gorres and Velayo audit firm.

The Philsoc has about P60 million cash on hand, representing 60 percent of Globe Telecoms' Gold advertising package. *Musong R. Castillo*

FedEx-RP cagers overwhelm Thais

HONG KONG—FedEx-RP needed just one big scoring run in the third period to dump Southeast Asian Games rival Thailand, 91-69, Wednesday night in Group B of the 14th Eastcolight-Super Kung Sheung Cup international invitational basketball championship at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium here.

Led by former Lyceum of the Philippines standout Gary David, the Filipinos finished off the Thais with a 21-0 run at the start of the third quarter to turn what had been a close contest into a rout.

It was the second win in as many games for Fed-Ex, which also whipped China's Fukien, 96-78, on Tuesday.

David, who turned 27 years old on the same day, triggered the Filipinos' decisive breakaway by eluding a pesky Thai defender and nailing a long three-point shot just before the shot clock sounded to put the pro squad ahead for good.

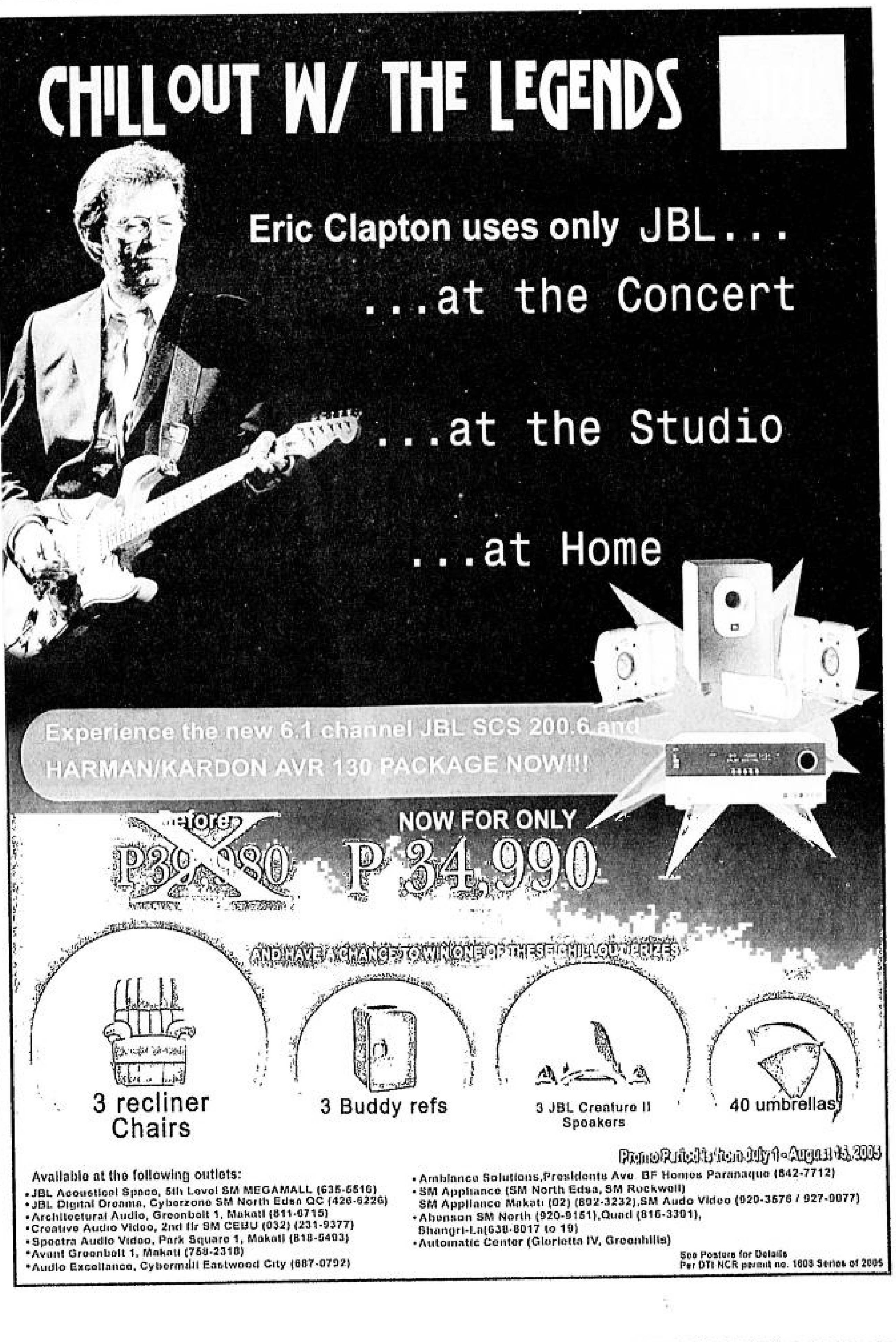
Before Fed-Ex's show of force, the Thais kept the Filipinos at bay in the first and second quarters, even taking a one-point lead, 38-37, on a triple by Chainarong Sootreetapos early in the third period.

"It's a good win," said FedEx-RP coach Johnny Tam. "We're a bit relaxed and complacent against the Thais at the start."

Next up for FedEx-RP is the Los Angeles-based Asian American Sports Club, which edged Fukien, 84-82, also Wednesday.

In Group A, defending champion Hong Kong humbled Seaba champion Malaysia, 78-73, for its second win, while Singapore upset Guangzhou, 72-63, to even its card at 1-1.

SERVICE ACES: Olympic mixed doubles silver medalists Gail Emms and Nathan Robertson (third and fourth from left) launch the 3rd Sportshouse-Carlton Corporate and Celebrity Cup recently at the Atrium of SM Megamall. Joining the British pair in hitting the ceremonial serves are (from left) Filipina Olympian Weena Lim, Mars Chua of Sportshouse and Cecile Reyes of Dunlop-Slazenger Group. The annual tournament is slated July 18-24 at Club Six Fifty and SM Megamall.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BRITISH OPEN

Woods grabs early lead

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland—Tiger Woods sounded an ominous warning to his rivals by moving two strokes clear in the British Open first round on Thursday.

The world number one, bidding for a 10th career major, reeled off seven birdies in nine holes before completing a six-under-par 66 at an overcast and breezy St. Andrews.

Three-time winner Jack Nicklaus, making his final appearance at the Old Course at the age of 65, produced a few moments of magic on his way to a battling 75.

Americans Nicklaus and Woods paused during their rounds for two minutes silence in memory of the victims of last week's London bombings.

A run of four consecutive birdies from the par-four ninth put Woods three ahead at seven under but he lost ground with bogeys at 13 and 16, on both occasions ending up in pot bunkers.

He signed off in style, though, chipping to six feet for a birdie at the last and his best start at an Open since he fired a 65 at Royal Birkdale in 1998.

"I ended up in three bunkers today but, all in all, I'm very pleased with six under," the US Masters champion told the BBC.

"I've played well in this year's majors so far with a first and a second and I want to keep building on that.

"A second win here at St. Andrews would be special but I've still got a lot of work to do," added the 29-year-old American, who won the 2000 Open at the Old Course by eight shots.

Twice US Open champion Retief Goosen, British Ryder Cup player Luke Donald, Spain's Jose Maria Olazabal and Australia's Peter Lonard were tied for second after carding 68s.

Frenchman Thomas Levet, who lost out in a four-way playoff for the 2002 title at Muirfield where Ernie Els triumphed, was a further shot back with American Bart Bryant.

Woods parred the first three holes before rolling in a 25-footer at the par-four fourth and reaching the green in two at the par-five fifth to get to two under.

Although he was bunkered off the tee at the seventh, he splashed out to six feet for birdie number three. He then holed an eight-footer at the ninth to reach the turn in four-under 32.

At the par-four 10th, he struck his approach to seven feet and calmly sank the putt.

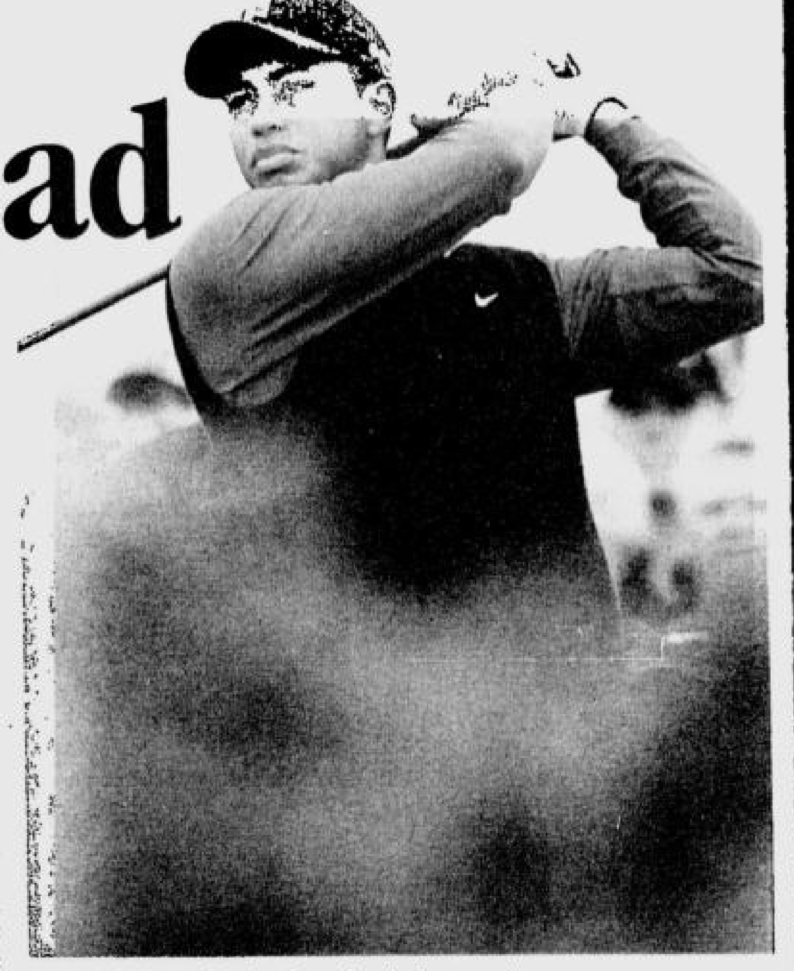
A curling 15-footer followed for birdie at the par-three 11th before Woods stretched his lead to three with a seven-foot birdie putt on 12.

Nicklaus, who made his debut at Royal Troon in 1962, sparked warm applause from a huge gallery when he pitched to eight feet at the opening hole to set up his first birdie.

Although the 'Golden Bear' stumbled at two of the next three holes, he recovered at the par-four seventh where he manufactured a deft bump-and-run from behind a greenside bunker that ended up just five feet from the cup for birdie number two.

Nicklaus, whose last two British Open victories in 1970 and 1978 came at St. Andrews, bogeyed 11, 12 and 13 to lose ground before being cheered all the way down the last to complete his round.

World number two Vijay Singh and 2002 Open winner Ernie Els of South Africa were among the late starters. *Reuters*



WOODS: Seven birdies in a-nine-hole stretch.

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SM MANILA-2nd Level
FILINVEST FESTIVAL MALL-2nd Level
ROB. ERMITA-Level 2
THE PODIUM-3rd Level
GREENBELT 3-Level 1
SM SOUTHMALL-Upper Ground Floor
EASTWOOD CITYWALK II-Unit A3-3B & 2F-3B
EDSA CENTRAL-Ground Floor
GATEWAY ARANETA-Level 1
Outlet Store:
STA. ROSA-Ground Floor
TUTUBAN CENTERMALL-Ground Floor
Provincial:
AYALA CENTER CEBU-Ground Floor
ROBINSON'S CEBU-Ground Floor
ROBINSON'S BACOLOD-Ground Floor
ROBINSON'S BIG-R CAGAYAN DE ORO-Level 1

Per DTI-NCR Permit #4176, Series of 2005.

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The Sparkling Nights outscored the Hornbills of Gov. Rolando Yebes and supporters Mayor Robert Uy and Mayor Dominador Jalosjos Jr., 13-9, to post their fifth win in seven games.

Mark Magsumbol scored Zanorte's last seven points but botched the final player when he opted to pass rather than shoot, leading to a turnover at the buzzer.

With their eighth straight loss, the Hornbills remained at the bottom of the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam Corp., KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

"We're lucky to turn what had looked like a defeat into victory. My players showed a lot of character," said Mantawi coach Jun Noel.

Mantawi trails Ozamiz (7-2) and defending champion Tribu Sugbu (6-2) in the Southern Conference, but it's ahead of Valencia (3-4), Iligan (3-4), CdO (1-3), Iloilo (1-5) and Zanorte.

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:

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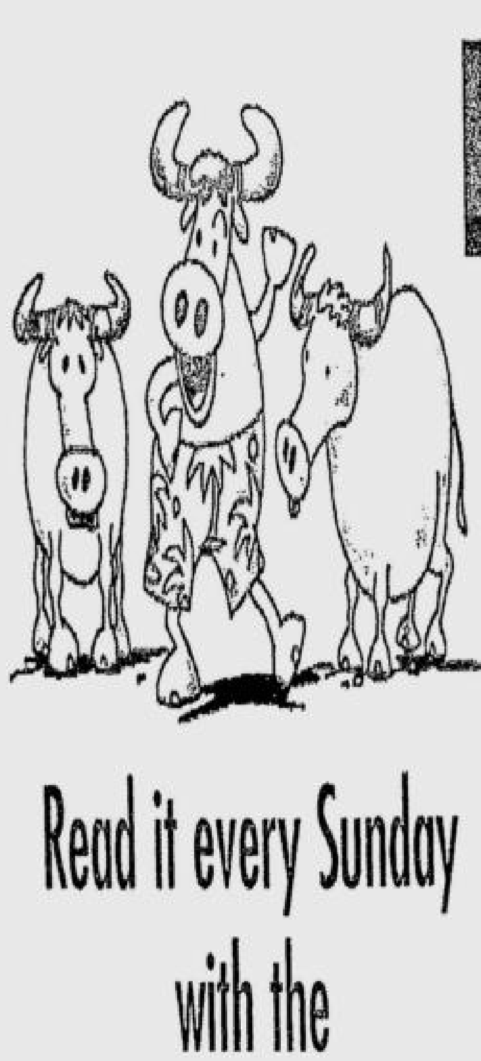

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB Market

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Leading the regional finals cast are Zamboanga qualifiers Team Acoustic Team Acoustic of Barangay Talon-Talon and Team Galaxy of Western Mindanao State U, while Team Articulate of Bgy. Camaman-an and Team Ganador of Bgy. Carmen composed the Cagayan de Oro qualifiers.

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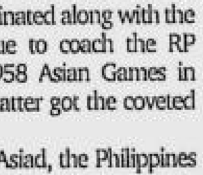

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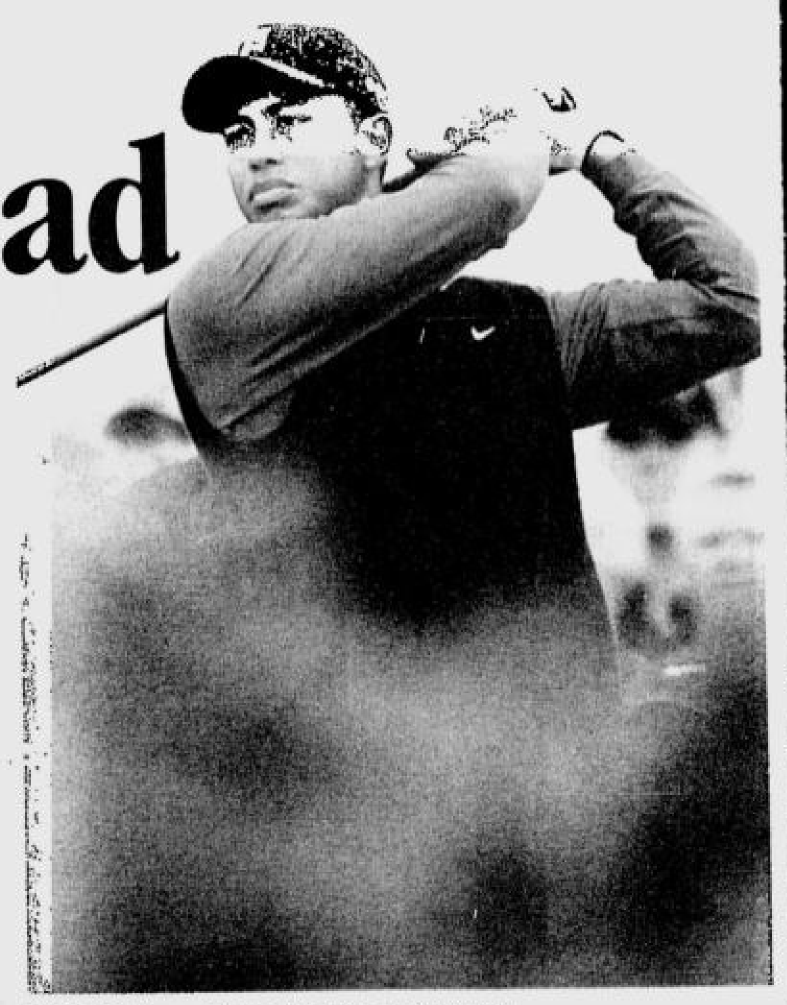
BRITISH OPEN

Woods grabs early lead



WOODS: Seven birdies in a-nine-hole stretch.

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland—Tiger Woods sounded an ominous warning to his rivals by moving two strokes clear in the British Open first round on Thursday.

The world number one, bidding for a 10th career major, reeled off seven birdies in nine holes before completing a six-under-par 66 at an overcast and breezy St. Andrews.

Three-time winner Jack Nicklaus, making his final appearance at the Old Course at the age of 65, produced a few moments of magic on his way to a battling 75.

Americans Nicklaus and Woods paused during their rounds for two minutes silence in memory of the victims of last week's London bombings.

A run of four consecutive birdies from the par-four ninth put Woods three ahead at seven under but he lost ground with bogeys at 13 and 16, on both occasions ending up in pot bunkers.

He signed off in style, though, chipping to six feet for a birdie at the last and his best start at an Open since he fired a 65 at Royal Birkdale in 1998.

"I ended up in three bunkers today but, all in all, I'm very pleased with six under," the US Masters champion told the BBC.

"I've played well in this year's majors so far with a first and a second and I want to keep building on that.

"A second win here at St. Andrews would be special but I've still got a lot of work to do," added the 29-year-old American, who won the 2000 Open at the Old Course by eight shots.

Twice US Open champion Retief Goosen, British Ryder Cup player Luke Donald, Spain's Jose Maria Olazabal and Australia's Peter Lonard were tied for second after carding 68s.

Frenchman Thomas Levet, who lost out in a four-way playoff for the 2002 title at Muirfield where Ernie Els triumphed, was a further shot back with American Bart Bryant.

Woods parred the first three holes before rolling in a 25-footer at the par-four fourth and reaching the green in two at the par-five fifth to get to two under.

Although he was bunkered off the tee at the seventh, he splashed out to six feet for birdie number three. He then holed an eight-footer at the ninth to reach the turn in four-under 32.

At the par-four 10th, he struck his approach to seven feet and calmly sank the putt.

A curling 15-footer followed for birdie at the par-three 11th before Woods stretched his lead to three with a seven-foot birdie putt on 12.

Nicklaus, who made his debut at Royal Troon in 1962, sparked warm applause from a huge gallery when he pitched to eight feet at the opening hole to set up his first birdie.

Although the 'Golden Bear' stumbled at two of the next three holes, he recovered at the par-four seventh where he manufactured a deft bump-and-run from behind a greenside bunker that ended up just five feet from the cup for birdie number two.

Nicklaus, whose last two British Open victories in 1970 and 1978 came at St. Andrews, bogeyed 11, 12 and 13 to lose ground before being cheered all the way down the last to complete his round.

World number two Vijay Singh and 2002 Open winner Ernie Els of South Africa were among the late starters. *Reuters*

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Mendoza snaps Jao's winning streak

FAST-RISING Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex snapped defending champion Jolet Jao's winning streak in the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Bgy. Maligaya, Rosario, Batangas. Mendoza grabbed the lead from Jao on the second lap and gained distance midway to etch his first win in the series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Toyota Motors Phils., Aeromed, Kilton Motors, Denso and MOF Co. He clocked 16:35.201 in the 10-lap race, 9.456 seconds ahead of Jao who was nursing stomach problems. Jao slipped to 3rd.

SPORTSWATCH

Champions of the Future

THE CHAMPIONS of the Future karting series will be held on Sunday at the Kart Trak in Boomland. The country's top kid karters are set to pit their skills against one another in this spectacle which is open to the public. The event was organized by the Tuason Racing School as part of its grassroots racing driver recruitment and development program. Leading the Expert Class in the series for kids aged 8 to 13 is 2004 PIKA Kids Karting champion Roman Carlo Academia with 74 points. In second place is Roby Benito, who has 63 points. Tied for third with 61 points each are Kahlil Demaisip and Juha Turalba. At fifth is first round winner Gabby Borja with 50 points followed by Andres Saldaña with 36 points. In the Novice Class, Paolo Gonzales leads with 97 points. At second place is Renz Pascoguin with 71. For details, call Tuason Racing School at 6352587 or 09189297859 or visit www.tuasonracing.com.

Jet ski returns to Subic

JET Ski races return to its original home as the Jet Sports Association of the Philippines (JSAP) stages the 2005 Petron-JSAP Invitational Race tomorrow at the Waterfront Beach of the Subic Bay Free Zone. The event, sponsored by Petron, Networx Jetsports, RPM, De Beer Car Refinishes, Kingerald's Ride, Prime Motors, Architect Cesar B. Reyes and Co. and Lakeshore, will feature the one-hour Off Shore Race and the Closed Course Competition which will be highlighted by the battle of former jet ski champions in the Expert Runabout 1200 class. Leading the field in the Expert Runabout 1200 class are 1998 champion John Dee, 2001 titlist Carlo Baltao, 1996 champion and now Asian Formula 3 driver John Marcelo, and top RP rider Paul del Rosario—the JSAP back-to-back champion in 1999-2000. Joining them are Guam's Alex del Mundo and Ron Guyos. Call Networx Jetsports at 413-3109 or log on at www.networxjetsports.com.

Hopkins picked to trash Taylor

LAS VEGAS—A fistfight between a 40-year-old man and a 26-year-old opponent hardly seems fair. Bernard Hopkins, the old guy, agrees. He doesn't think Jermain Taylor has a chance in their middleweight title bout. Hopkins makes his record 21st straight defense of the middleweight title Saturday night against Taylor, who has worked his way from Olympic bronze medal in 2000 to a 23-0 professional record with 17 knockouts. As a measure of how long Hopkins has been at the fight game, Taylor was 13 when Hopkins won his first title of any kind. Indeed, Hopkins' resume had 35 bouts on it by then. So the way the champion from Philadelphia sees it, everything favors him to continue a streak his promoter—and one of his victims in the ring, Oscar De La Hoya—calls "something that will never happen again." *AP*

Slo-pitch clinics in Cebu

THE CEBUANA Lhuillier and Le Soleil de Boracay slo-pitch teams arrive today for a four-hour clinic from 2-5 p.m. at the Cebu City Sports Center field. The two teams own several titles, including the Pangaea and Bangkok International crowns. They will arrive at 10 a.m. and will stay at the Cebu Midtown Hotel. Although the clinic is part of Asaphil Slo-pitch commissioner Jean Henri Lhuillier's program to promote the sports nationally, the three-day stay of the players is also a treat for winning back-to-back the Pangaea International Slo-Pitch title and the Bangkok International Slo-pitch championship last year. "I am confident that Cebuanos would come in droves to see and learn how slo-pitch is played," said event organizer Rayner Sangil. "This is new to some but this sport is slowly gaining popularity in the entire Asian region." Sangil is part of the champion Cebuana Lhuillier squad although he may opt to play for the Cebu Flag Football League squad that is among the participants of the one-day demonstration.

Pasay Big Event today

MULTI-TITLED winner aces and broodcocks that are at least three years old will be fielded today in Pasay City Cockpit's "330 K Big Event 6-Cock Derby." Sabong idol Patrick Antonio, the National Cockers Association (NCA) Cocker of the Year, will lead the field with four entries along with his partners Jun Topacio and Manny Pacquiao. Other favorites are Big Event I and II champions Dicky Lim and RQP San Juan, Big Event II co-champion Pol Estrellado and 2005 World Slasher Cup champion Matt Bitanga.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

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Race 2—1. Heart of Jonna 2. Miracle Music 3. Naughty 4. God Is Good
Race 3—1. Full of Fury 2. Nitty Gritty 3. Reporter 4. Mr. Lucas
Race 4—1. War Hero 2. Cat's Jewel 3. Angie Gray 4. Cara Dura 5. Western Legend
Race 5—1. Coolmore 2. Solomioh 3. E Mail 4. Beyond Reach
Race 6—1. Letshaveparty/Gigi's Gold 2. Lightning Strike 3. Smooth Strike 4. Wrecking Ball
Race 7—1. Scud Missile 2. Unrivaled 3. Kim Possible 4. Daldalera
Race 8—1. Scream for Chance 2. La Española 3. Je t'aime 4. Lucky Fil
Race 9—1. Juan Marco 2. Express Strike 3. Sham Sham 4. Smart Kevin 5. Nagmamahal/Jubilee 6. Don Ramon

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invited the country's form an ad hoc committee that will attend to the formation of a strong, well-trained and competitive team. BAP officials agreed with this approach and passed a resolution expressing their full cooperation to the POC. However, the BAP unexpectedly reneged on these agreements, leading to its suspension and later expulsion from the POC for its continued show of arrogance. BAP's position became untenable when it sent a team to the Seaba meet without informing the POC.

As a result, the Fiba suspended the Philippines from taking part in all Fiba-sanctioned events, thus preventing a BAP team from playing in the Seaba meet in Kuala Lumpur.

Right now, the POC is entertaining the idea of forming a new basketball organization that can regain the country's once lofty place in the international sporting map. While it is sad to see a 70-year-old institution go, this would not have happened if only those who are tasked to serve the BAP have not been too bullheaded to listen to reason by accepting their past failures. Simple as that.

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CINEMA 1 FANTASTIC 4 GP 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20
CINEMA 2 NEW POLICE STORY PG13 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
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CINEMA 3 IF ONLY PG13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20
CINEMA 4 FANTASTIC 4 GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
CINEMA 5 HERBIE GP 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
JULY 29 & 30 SOULSISTERS (Jessa, Marissa & Ara) 8PM
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SHANG CINEPLEX

① FANTASTIC FOUR MTRCB GP 12.10, 2.40, 5.10, 7.40, 10.10
② HERBIE FULLY LOADED MTRCB GP 11.50, 2.20, 4.50, 7.20, 9.50
③ IF ONLY MTRCB PG-13 11.35, 2.00, 4.25, 6.50, 9:15
④ WAR OF THE WORLDS MTRCB. PG-13 12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00
PREMIERE THEATRE FANTASTIC FOUR MTRCB GP 1.40, 4.10, 6.40, 9.10
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	IF ONLY 12:50, 3:15 5:40, 8:15, 10:35 PG-13
2	FANTASTIC FOUR 12:20, 3:00, 5:40 8:20, 11:00 GP
3	HERBIE FULLY LOADED 10:30, 12:55, 3:25 5:55, 8:25, 10:50 PG-13
4	FANTASTIC FOUR 11:40, 2:20, 5:00 7:40, 10:20 GP

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the podium 633-8976
1 FANTASTIC FOUR 12:20FS/12:50MF/03:05/05:20/07:35 09:50LFS/09:20LMF/11:35END
2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED 12:45FS/01:15MF/03:25/05:35/07:45 09:55LFS/09:25LMF/11:30END

megamall 633-1901
MR. & MRS. SMITH 12:30FS/01:00MF/03:50/06:40 08:40LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END

cebu (032) 231-3876
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH 12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12 09:12LFS/09:30LFS/11:30END
2 FANTASTIC FOUR 11:50FS/12:09MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36 09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:20END
3 NEW POLICE STORY 11:15FS/11:30MF/02:09/04:30/07:00 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:35END

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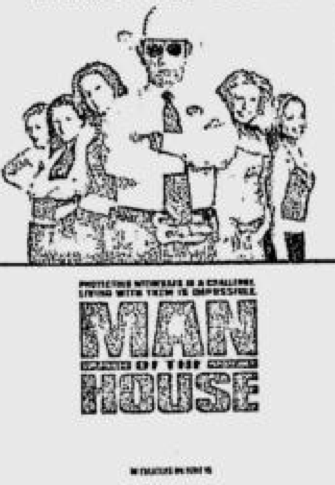
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METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
MR. & MRS. SMITH
WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 IF ONLY
NEW POLICE STORY
5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAMPUS GHOST STORY
8 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
9 MONSTER-IN-LAW
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 PINOY BLONDE
12 MAN OF THE HOUSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
MR. & MRS. SMITH
NASAAN KA MAN
CREEP
WAR OF THE WORLDS
NEW POLICE STORY
6 PINOY BLONDE
FANTASTIC FOUR
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
9 IF ONLY
10 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
11 BATMAN BEGINS
12 ICE PRINCESS

SM NORTH EDSA
FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS
IF ONLY
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
PINOY BLONDE
6 NEW POLICE STORY
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY MANILA
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 IF ONLY
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 MONSTER-IN-LAW
8 BATMAN BEGINS
9 PINOY BLONDE
10 NASAAN KA MAN
11 CREEP
12 CAMPUS GHOST STORY

SM CITY STA MESA
FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 IF ONLY
NEW POLICE STORY
6 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 MONSTER-IN-LAW
9 PINOY BLONDE
10 NASAAN KA MAN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
5 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 NASAAN KA MAN
8 MONSTER-IN-LAW
9 IF ONLY
10 PINOY BLONDE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 PINOY BLONDE
2 NEW POLICE STORY
FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY BICUTAN
FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
NEW POLICE STORY

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
FANTASTIC FOUR
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
WAR OF THE WORLDS
PINOY BLONDE
6 NEW POLICE STORY

SM CITY BACOOR
CREEP
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
FANTASTIC FOUR
4 NEW POLICE STORY
WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 PINOY BLONDE
CAMPUS GHOST STORY
BATMAN BEGINS

SM CITY DASMARINAS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
PINOY BLONDE
NEW POLICE STORY
FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BAGUIO
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
2 PINOY BLONDE
WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY MARILAO
NEW POLICE STORY
FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PINOY BLONDE
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

SM CITY LUCENA
FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS
PREMONITION
HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

SM CITY BATANGAS
WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
FANTASTIC FOUR
PREMONITION

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
MR. & MRS. SMITH
FANTASTIC FOUR
NEW POLICE STORY
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
5 PINOY BLONDE
6 HOTEL RWANDA
7 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
8 WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY ILOILO
HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
2 RESERVED
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 SIN CITY
5 A LOT LIKE LOVE
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 RESERVED
8 CREEP

SM CITY DAVAO
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
3 PINOY BLONDE
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 SIN CITY
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PINOY BLONDE
3 POOH'S HEFFALUMP
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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See posters and flyers for more details

Participating Stores: Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 3395 series of 2005

MMTA
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MOVIE GUIDE
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SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR GP
2 (DOLBY) HERBIE: FULLY LOADED GP
3 (DOLBY) IF ONLY PG13
4 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) NEW POLICE STORY
2 (SDDS) HERBIE FULLY LOADED
3 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (GOLD DTS) HERBIE FULLY LOADED
5 GOLD (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
6 GOLD (SDDS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PINOY BLONDE
9 IF ONLY
10 CAMPUS GHOST STORY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) IF ONLY
2 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 HERBIE FULLY LOADED
4 PINOY BLONDE

Universal
(Manila) tel: 7334043 or 2470
1 PINOY BLONDE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 PINOY BLONDE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) FANTASTIC FOUR
5 HERBIE FULLY LOADED

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 PINOY BLONDE
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
6 HERBIE FULLY LOADED

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
2 RESERVED

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) PINOY BLONDE
2 (DOLBY) NEW POLICE STORY
3 (DOLBY) HERBIE FULLY LOADED
4 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN
5 SOON TO OPEN

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 CREEP
2 MONSTER IN LAW
3 GRACIA
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 HERBIE FULLY LOADED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PINOY BLONDE
3 (DTS EX) NEW POLICE STORY
4 HERBIE FULLY LOSDED

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 POLICE STORY
2 PINOY BLONDE
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DTS) HERBIE FULLY LOADED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 SIX
3 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MADAGASCAR

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 PINOY BLONDIE
2 (DTS) NEW POLICE STORY
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 MONSTER IN LAW

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 MONSTER IN LAW
2 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DTS) NEW POLICE STORY
4 PINOY BLONDIE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 SIX
3 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SIN CITY
2 CREEP
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DTS) WAR OF THE WORLDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 UNLEASHED
3 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) NEW POLICE STORY
2 KALAPATI SA GABI
3 PROSTIE
4 (DTS) RIPPER LETTER FROM HELL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PINOY BLONDE
3 (DTS) MONSTER IN LAW
4 KALAPATI SA GABI
5 NEW POLICE STORY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 COACH CARTER
2 CREEP
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 SIN CITY

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 TAMPISAW

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Cebu hosts interscholastic golf

ABOUT 70 players from various schools in Cebu, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro are competing in the first-ever staging of the Samsung Interscholastic golf championships outside Luzon next week in Cebu.

The tourney, set at the Cebu Country Club on July 21-24, will feature the best jungolfers down south vying for the elementary, high school and college divisions.

The regular Interscholastics will be played over 54 holes using the Modified Stableford (Molave) scoring system. Grade school girls, however, will play 36 holes only. There will be six teams each on the grade school, high school and college divisions.

Among those already registered are Sacred Heart Jesuit, Springdale, San Carlos, La Salle Bacolod, Bethany, CIE, Bright Academy, St. Benedict, Cebu Eastern, CIS, among others.

The official practice day starts on July 18-19. Competitors wishing to practice prior to this date are advised to contact the venue golf club directly.

For inquiries, contact the Professional Sports Management Group Inc. at (632) 635-0010 or fax 631-5768.

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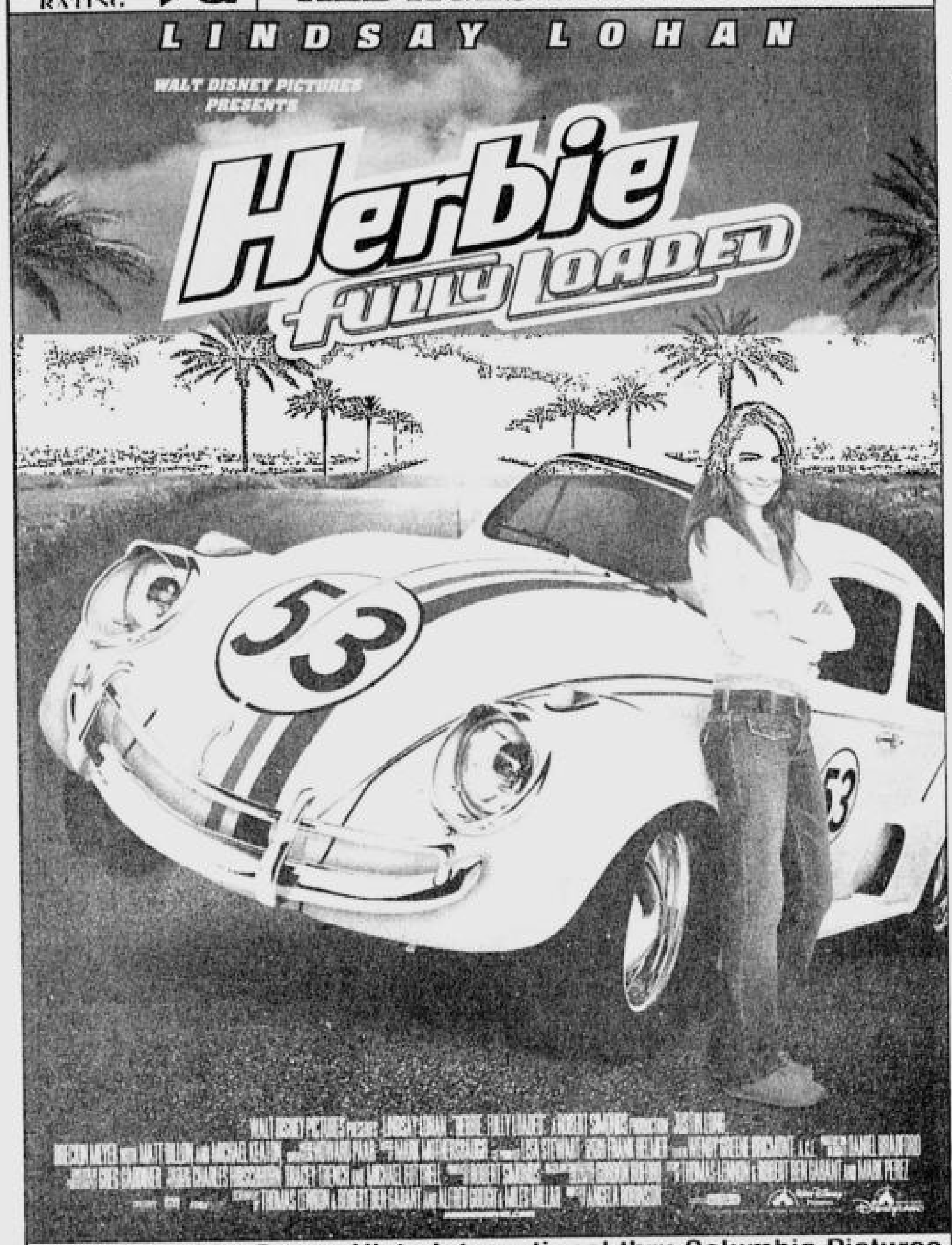

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Araneta Center Leisure Guide

The Araneta Coliseum

CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway Cineplex 10 LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 WAR OF THE WORLDS & FANTASTIC 4
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

IF ONLY
12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
NEW POLICE STORY
12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
FANTASTIC FOUR
1:00 / 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
WAR OF THE WORLDS
2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50
PINOY BLONDE
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
MONSTER IN LAW
2:45 / 5:15 / 7:45 / 10:00
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
FANTASTIC FOUR
2:40 / 5:10 / 7:40 / 10:10

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:00 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40
② NEW POLICE STORY
12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
③ FANTASTIC FOUR
12:10 / 2:20 / 4:30 / 6:40 / 8:50
④ PINOY BLONDE
11:50 / 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30
⑤ WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
July 16, 21 & 23 UAAP GAMES 10 am / 12 nn / 2 pm / 4 pm
JOHN MAXWELL ASIAN TOUR 2005 July 22, Friday 6:00 pm
July 18 20, 25 & 27 NCAA GAMES
Aug 1 PBA GOODWILL TOURNAMENT

CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENTS: Freeway Sale (Upper Ground Floor) and Barbizon & Sassa Sale (2nd Floor) at Ali Mall; Folded & Hung Sale (Level 2) and Bayo Sale (Level 3) at Gateway Mall
PERFORMANCES: Guarana on July 15, Acoustic Jive on July 16 & Mon David on July 17 at the Gateway Roxas Tunnel
EXHIBITS: Mega Magazine's 10 Most Beautiful Women Exhibit ongoing until July 15 at the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Manila race on July 24

THE ORGANIZING Manila Sports Council (Masco) has drawn up an even bigger 3rd Manila Marathon, one that could earn a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records, on July 24 at the Rizal Park.

A mammoth field expected to go over 40,000, including the country's best marathoners and long-distance runners, are expected to strut their wares on an out-and-back course that goes through the capital's major thoroughfares and historic and commercial districts.

"Representations have already been made by the Masco and we are targeting more than 40,000 finishers this year," said Masco chief Arnold "Ali" Atienza, son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. "We believe that with this figure, we will be able to clinch the Guinness world record."

Runners from Manila's 897 barangays and 130 public elementary and secondary schools, the city's universities, school leagues, and running clubs have thrown their full support behind the Big City run backed by Nike, Pagcor, PCSO, Red Bull, Milo, San Miguel Corp., and Concept Movers.

BRC hosts inaugural drag race

THE INAUGURAL Drag Race at the Batangas Racing Circuit will push through on July 22-23.

BRC manager Sherwin Mojica said the inaugural drag race will also serve as a test race supervised by the governing Automobile Association of the Philippines to ensure the safety concerns needed for the approval of the drag strip.

"We want to address the safety concerns raised by the AAP and our race director Fil Gulfin," said Mojica. "So we also encourage drag racing enthusiasts to participate and help us identify other safety measures to ensure an accident-free event."

Interested participants may contact the Batangas Racing Circuit at (632) 817-2241, fax 815-1241 or BRC officials Rodini Rivera (0927-3219363 or rivera_rod..ni@yahoo.com), Sherwin Mojica (0915-4606653 or sherwin-mojica@yahoo.com) or Nelson Gayola (0917-6920767 or nelson_gayola@kiltonmotor.com).

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

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GALLERIA
632-9115/16

1 FANTASTIC FOUR • THX
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

2 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

3 PINOY BLONDE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 NEW POLICE STORY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 IF ONLY
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 SHANGHAI LILY
1:40 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40

8 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00

9 MONSTER-IN-LAW
12:45 3:10 5:35 8:00 10:00

10 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 PINOY BLONDE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 IF ONLY
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 NEW POLICE STORY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 IF ONLY
1:50 4:20 6:45 9:10

2 NEW POLICE STORY
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

3 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

6 FANTASTIC FOUR
3:00 5:20 7:40

7 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 PINOY BLONDE
2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 CREEP
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 KALAPATI

PIONEER
687-5378

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 IF ONLY

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the deception
the desire...

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Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA
July 06 - 19

MTRCB Rating: R-18
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1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 PINOY BLONDE
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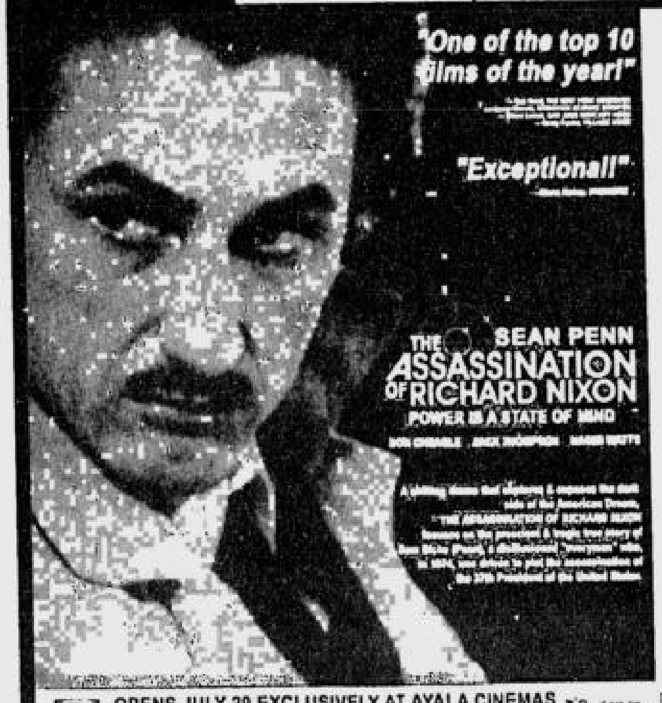
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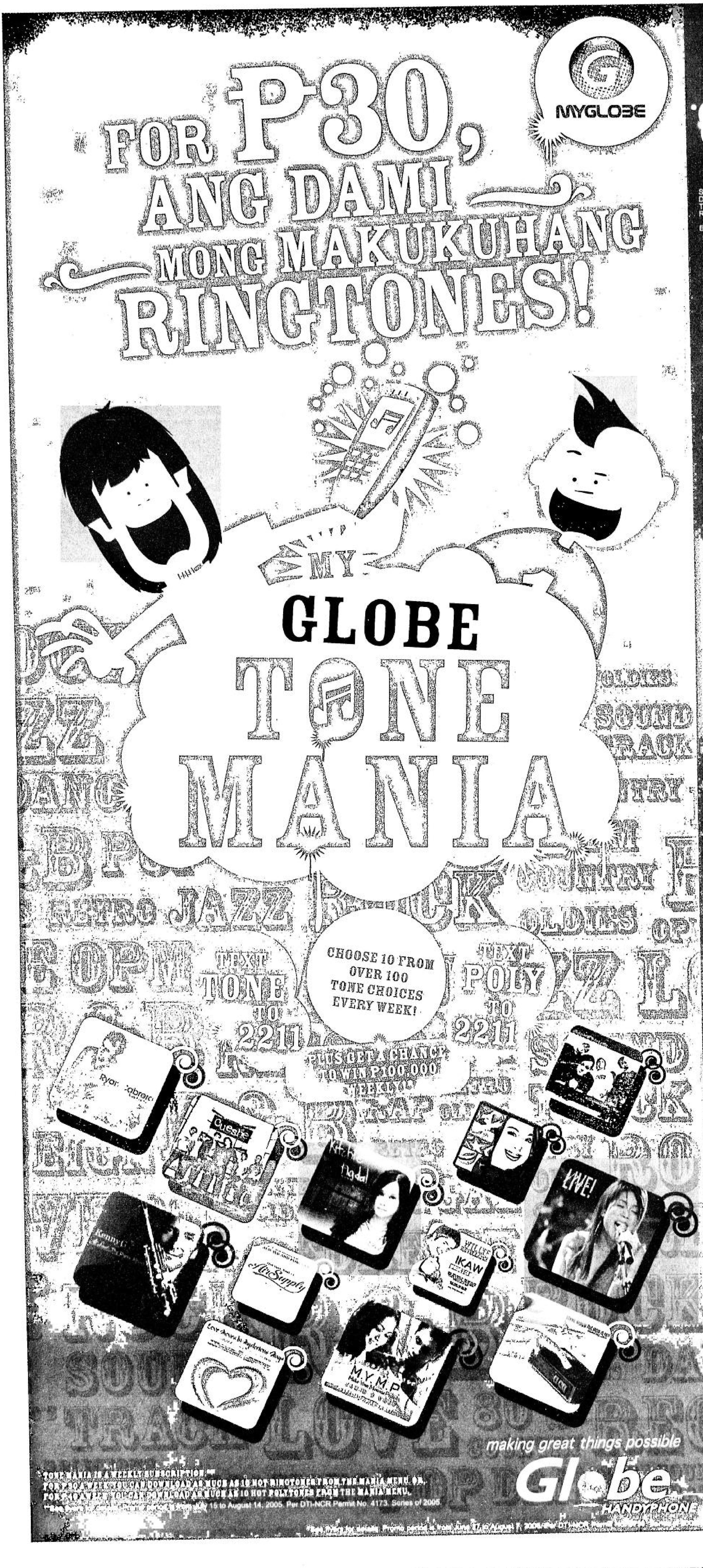
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TOP 10 CHART TOPPERS

SONG TITLE	CODE
WE BELONG TOGETHER	75
HOLLABACK GIRL	51
DON'T PHUNK WITH MY HEART	47
40 KINDS OF SADNESS	62
MUST GET OUT	85
UNTITLED	78
SIGNS	63
LONELY NO MORE	61
USED TO LOVE YOU	71
WE BELIEVE	50

TOP 20 OPM

SONG TITLE	CODE
WAG NA WAG MONG SASABIHIN	1
I'LL NEVER GO	31
LET THE LOVE BEGIN	26
SAME GROUND	22
STAY	3
SA KANYA	41
A LITTLE BIT	21
HANGGANG KAILAN	5
BABAE PO AKO	11
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME	27
GET ME	39
PAG-IBIG KO'Y PANSININ	6
KLSP	9
SO IT'S YOU	25
ITSUMO	29
BROKEN SONNET	42
SPAGHETTI	23
OVERDRIVE	30
ULAN	7
PARE KO	10

CLASSIC LOVE SONGS

SONG TITLE	CODE
RUSH RUSH	94
ESPECIALLY FOR YOU	33
HEART OF MINE	35
MAKING LOVE OUT OF NOTHING AT ALL	117
NOW AND FOREVER	118
EVERYTHING I DO, I DO IT FOR YOU	115
ALL OUT OF LOVE	119
SILHOUETTE	113
THROUGH THE FIRE	19
YOU'VE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELING	111

80'S

SONG TITLE	CODE
I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY	86
LOCOMOTION	91
I MELT WITH YOU	102
ICE ICE BABY	103
TRUE	95
99 LUFTBALLOONS	98
ALWAYS SOMETHING THERE TO REMIND ME	97
HEAD OVER HEELS	99
FRIDAY I'M IN LOVE	101
ANGEL	110

NOVELTY

SONG TITLE	CODE
BABAE PO AKO	11
FOLLOW THE LEADER	83
CHOCOLATE	65
CHOOPETA	2
SANA MAMA	43
JUMBO HOTDOG	34
PASAWAY	45
ISKUL BUKOL	37
CHICKEN DANCE	66
BAKIT PAPA	38

TV/MOVIE THEMES

SONG TITLE	CODE
HAWAII FIVE 0 THEME	106
EYE OF THE TIGER	105
NANDITO AKO	17
JAMES BOND THEME	109
KAHAPON LANG	46
BATMAN THEME	107
FALLIN'	18
CAN'T LOSE YOU (OH BABY BABY)	89
WOWOWEE	14
PAG-IBIG KO'Y PANSININ	6

ROCK

SONG TITLE	CODE
WAG NA WAG MONG SASABIHIN	1
BULONG	13
MUST GET OUT	85
THIS LOVE	54
BOULEVARD OF BROKEN DREAMS	89
HANGGANG KAILAN	5
KLSP	9
PANSININ MO	15
WE BELIEVE	50
NUMB	53

DANCE

SONG TITLE	CODE
I LIKE TO MOVE IT	59
HOLLABACK GIRL	51
BOOGIE WONDERLAND	93
DON'T PHUNK WITH MY HEART	47
MUNDIAN TO BACH KE (BILOG ANG MUNDO)	58
HIT ME BABY ONE MORE TIME	49
BOP BOP	77
MOVE YAH BODY	57
LET'S GET LOUD	79
GOODIES	82

RNB/HIP-HOP

SONG TITLE	CODE
USED TO LOVE YOU	71
N DEY SAY	55
WONDERFUL	73
EVERYTIME I CLOSE MY EYES	114
ROCK WITH YOU	90
LET'S GET IT STARTED	81
I LIKE THAT	70
RIGHT THURR	67
OVER AND OVER	87
HAPPY	74

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Sensational secrets of the Fantastic Four

Fake abs, fake tan, crotch flaps and a rubber suit that had to be cleaned nightly with vodka

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

SEE Michael Chiklis? It was hot in there.

NEW YORK—"I love the Philippines. I've been there several times," said "Nip/Tuck" actor Julian McMahon to me after we were introduced.

No, I wasn't with TV's most popular plastic surgeon these days, Christian Troy, to ask advice on my million and one eye bags—although some folks do presume that Julian carves faces and bodies in real life.

Instead, I was with a group of journalists at the Essex House to interview Julian and his co-stars on "Fantastic Four," the latest Marvel book to be adapted to the screen (its co-creator, comics legend Stan Lee, makes his usual cameo appearance). Julian, the son of the late Australian Prime Minister William McMahon, plays a villain so I asked him if he was envious that he didn't get to wear the fantastically tight suits of the Marvel comic book heroes, played by Jessica Alba (Invisible Woman), Chris Evans (Human Torch), Michael Chiklis (The Thing) and Ioan Gruffudd (Mr. Fantastic).

"I was absolutely not envious of them wearing tight costumes," said Julian, a former model who was Givenchy Man of the Year in 1990, with a big laugh. He plays Dr. Victor Von Doom. Talk about typecasting. "Initially, I also had to put on tights underneath a space suit in the movie's earlier scenes but I chopped mine with scissors. It was so tight and constricting. I don't think Victor wanted to spend too much time in tights anyway—they expose a lot (laughter), to say the least. But everybody looks good, especially Jessica."

Did he tease Jessica and the three guys? "Sure, I did," Julian replied, blue eyes smiling. "I am not going to say what I said (laughter)."

'Tuck, tuck...'

Julian, once married to the sister of singer-actress Kylie Minogue, shared this anecdote on his very popular cosmetic surgery cable TV drama: "I didn't realize how big 'Nip/Tuck' had become until I took a holiday in Bora Bora. I was on an island in the middle of nowhere and some guy came running up to me and went, 'tuck, tuck, tuck, tuck!' (laughter). I went 'tuck, tuck, tuck to you too, my friend.' I went back to my room and turned on the TV. The first thing I saw was myself speaking in French. I thought I was actually better in French than I was in English."

Jessica Alba, brown, beautiful (she can be mistaken for a Filipina), and fresh from another film adaptation of a comic book ("Sin City"), gave this reply on what she would do if she really had the power to be invisible, "I would probably spy on somebody for fun, not for anything evil (laughter). I'd also like to be invisible when I'm just grocery shopping and I don't feel like being photographed by the paparazzi." After going the blonde route for a succession of roles, including for this movie, Jessica is back to the natural brown color of her long tresses.

Asked by a writer about the rumors that she was the top choice to be the girlfriend of Tom Cruise, a "role" that wags say is what Katie Holmes is now playing, Jessica was firm: "I met him and that's probably why people made up stories. I really don't have anything to say because it's none of my business."

I remarked to Chris Evans that he stole

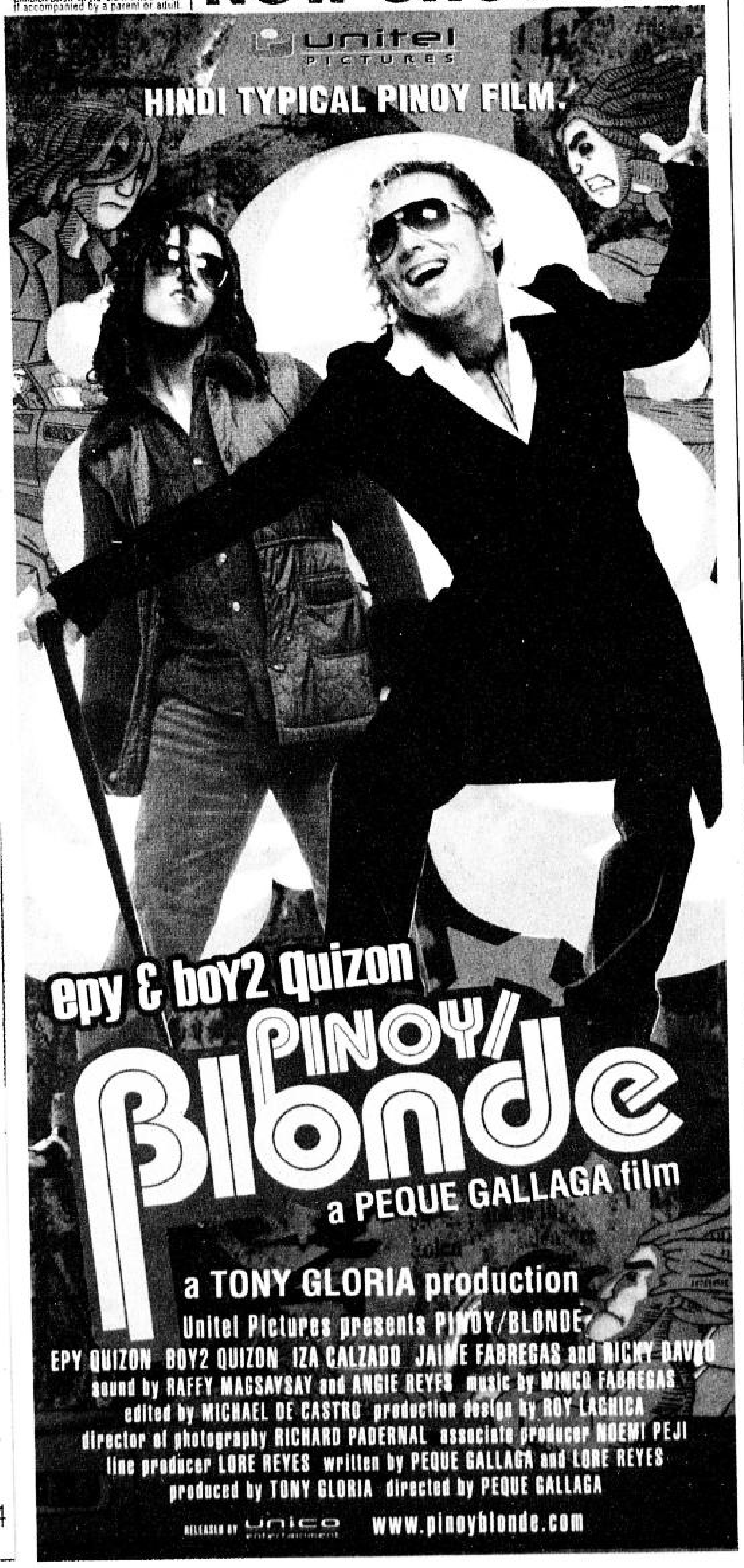
SENSATIONAL/ A2-2

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Vhong & Jill /A2-2

■ Where have real variety shows gone? /A3-1

■ A Pinoy in INXS search for frontman /A3-4



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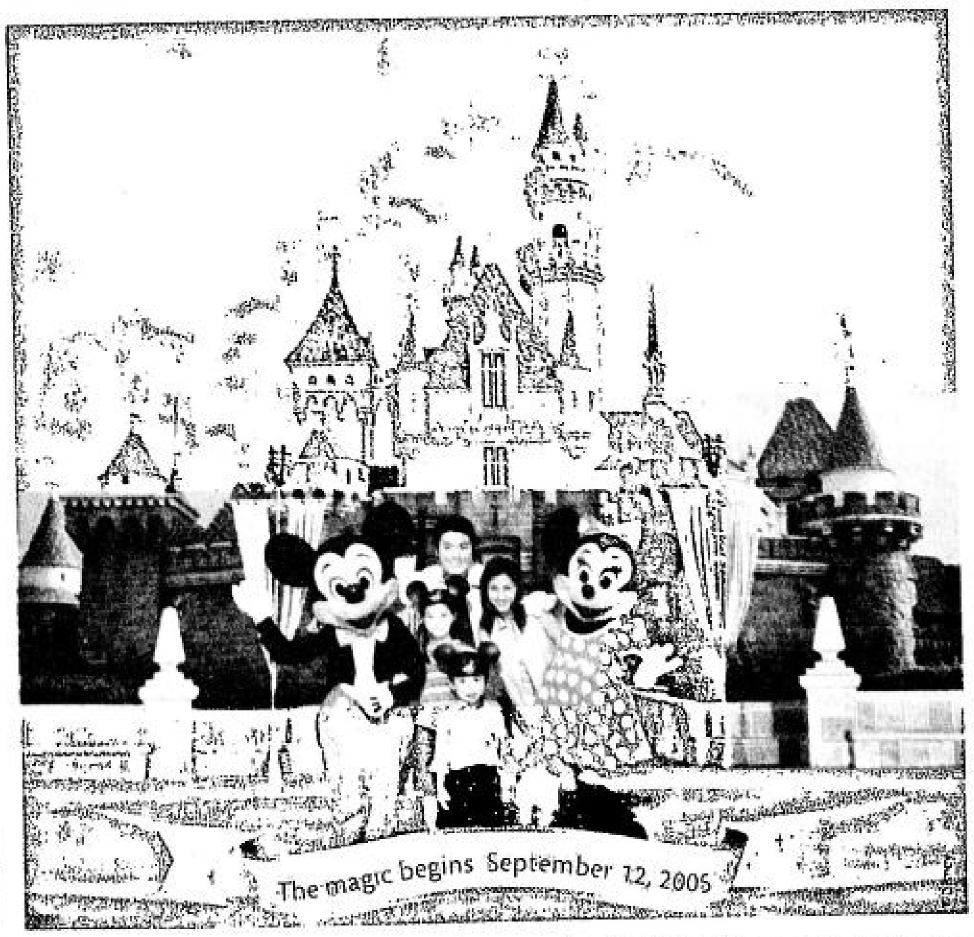

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Keep 'em on, girl!

NEW YORK—Some Hollywood actresses are cautious about revealing too much skin but 20-year-old Scarlett Johansson had to be persuaded to keep her underwear on, according to her director in 'The Island,' Michael Bay.

Speaking before Monday's New York premiere of the thriller, which stars Johansson and Ewan McGregor as human clones on the run, Bay said he was prepared for the usual actress nerves when it came to shooting a love scene between the two leads.

Jacko sued for $48 million

NEW YORK—A financial firm has sued Michael Jackson for $48 million in fees it says the singer owes for help in refinancing his bank debts and claiming a larger stake in a library of Beatles songs. Prescient Acquisition Group, also known as Prescient Capital Corp., filed the lawsuit in US District Court in Manhattan.

Brad with 'flu-like' illness

LOS ANGELES—Film star Brad Pitt is suffering from the symptoms of flu and has been admitted to a Los Angeles hospital a week after returning from a trip to East Africa, his publicist said on Tuesday. "He's fine," publicist Cindy Guagenti said. "They are just doing a couple tests."

Cruise on 3rd 'Mission'

ROME—Tom Cruise set pulses racing in the center of Rome on Tuesday as he careened down the Tiber River as part of filming for "Mission: Impossible 3." With St. Peter's Basilica as a backdrop, the Hollywood heartthrob piloted a speedboat under statue-topped bridges, bringing river traffic to a standstill and wowing tourists.

'Desperate,' 'Lost' in Emmy race

LOS ANGELES—Two surprise hits driving a ratings rebound at ABC—"Desperate Housewives" and "Lost"—are front-runners at this week's Emmy Award nominations, joining a mix of newcomers and old favorites vying for US television's highest honors. The winners will be announced in September. *Reuters*

IOAN Gruffudd

CHRIS Evans

JESSICA Alba

MICHAEL Chiklis

Sensational secrets of the Fantastic Four

From page A2-1

this movie. He was born to play the fun, cocky, charming Johnny Storm/Human Torch who can shoot fire from his finger tips and bend flame. The actor who appeared in the thriller "Cellular" blushed when he was told to get ready—the phrase "You're hot" will be thrown at him often from hereon. Is he also charming in real life? "If I've had enough drinks," he stated with a grin.

As for some scenes where he wears nothing but a pink jacket tied around his waist, Chris said, "That's fairly inevitable for the parts that I go out for. It's a little bit of eye candy—if it helps sell tickets, sure. For this role, I thought, why not? I've been working out a lot since high school. I had a great time with the role. He's the kind of guy who enjoys showing off. The rest of the Fantastic Four are more reserved while Johnny, my character, is more interested in having fun."

Ladies, be warned: his tan is fake. Chris explained, "I'm very pale so whenever I do a scene where I have no shirt on, they cover me in body make-up. It's gross being covered head to toe in make-up. I leave marks on everything I touch."

In Ioan Gruffudd's case, he's the first to admit that his bulging muscles are not for real.

Not attractive

The actor, last seen in "King Arthur" with Keira Knightley and Clive Owen, and dressed from top to bottom "by Mr. Armani" in this press con, gamely revealed, "I don't have the best figure so I got them to make a muscle suit for me to wear underneath. These artists sculpted fantastic muscles, big arms and pecs for me. Then I wore a spandex suit over that. The zippers were hidden between the legs so it was a bit of rigmarole. It was not the most attractive thing every morning to see me try and get into this thing. I used a lot of talcum powder. There was rubber rubbing against my skin and pulling my hair."

And there were other fake things aside from the abs. Ioan, whose hero character can elongate his body, volunteered with amusement, "The one thing that we did keep getting memos for was the codpiece. People in the first dailies were distracted by our codpieces. We were forever having the codpieces toned down because in some scenes, people would walk into the room and immediately look down at our codpieces."

JULIAN McMahon

And finally, Michael Chiklis, as a hideously misshapen monster with superhuman strength, offered one more tale of costume woe: "They put this skin tight body leotard on me before I get in the suit so that my sweat will pour through it. My perspiration sheds into the rubber suit. That's why the suit kept getting heavier and heavier as the day went on. They would drain it at night. They used vodka to clean it which I found really interesting."

Why vodka? The star of the hit TV series "The Shield" quipped, "I guess vodka killed bacteria and it evaporated very quickly."

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.)

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Vhong denies courting young co-star Jill Yulo

But is he really living in with Diana Zubiri?

By Nini Valera

A PILLOW that Vhong Navarro gave his co-star Jill Yulo during the filming of their movie "D' Anothers" triggered rumors that the comedian was after the 15-year-old actress.

Vhong, 28, has denied there was any malice in his "bonding" with fellow actors on the set of the movie directed by Joyce Bernal.

"She's young, she's pretty, she's sexy," said Vhong in Filipino. "She needs an older brother."

She's also jail bait.

"Right now, I don't need this kind of intrigue," Vhong said good-naturedly. "If I had [such] intentions, I'd keep it a secret. But I gave her that pillow in public. I even gave Direk Joyce one exactly the same pillow. How come no one is questioning that?"

Vhong said Jill had actually asked him for the pillow. "*Naglalambing,*" he explained.

The rumors came on the heels of talks that he was living in with sexpot Diana Zubiri.

"There are some things I still can't talk about," he parried. "There are some secrets I have to keep."

No secret

But it was no secret to the tabloid press that Vhong spent time in Diana's condo unit after he split up with wife Bianca Lapus with whom he has a 7-year-old son.

Vhong insisted that he and Diana were just good friends. His manager, director Chito Roño, said Vhong had merely showered in Diana's condo and left some of his things there.

"That's probably why people thought that he was living with Diana," said Chito.

Vhong insisted that he was no denial king. "I will admit everything, but not right now," he told INQUIRER Entertainment. "My annulment is still pending, and I was the one who filed it. I can't go into details."

He claimed that he was never remiss on his obligations as a father.

"I support my son," he said. "I pay for his *yaya* and his tuition. I give them a monthly allowance. I don't want my son to be a burden to his mother."

He admitted that he and Bianca were "not friends now." He said he might have been too young when they got married.

"At 21, I thought it was okay," he said. "I got her pregnant, and I wanted my child to carry my name. Now, I'm advising young people to get married only at the right age and when you already have the right job."

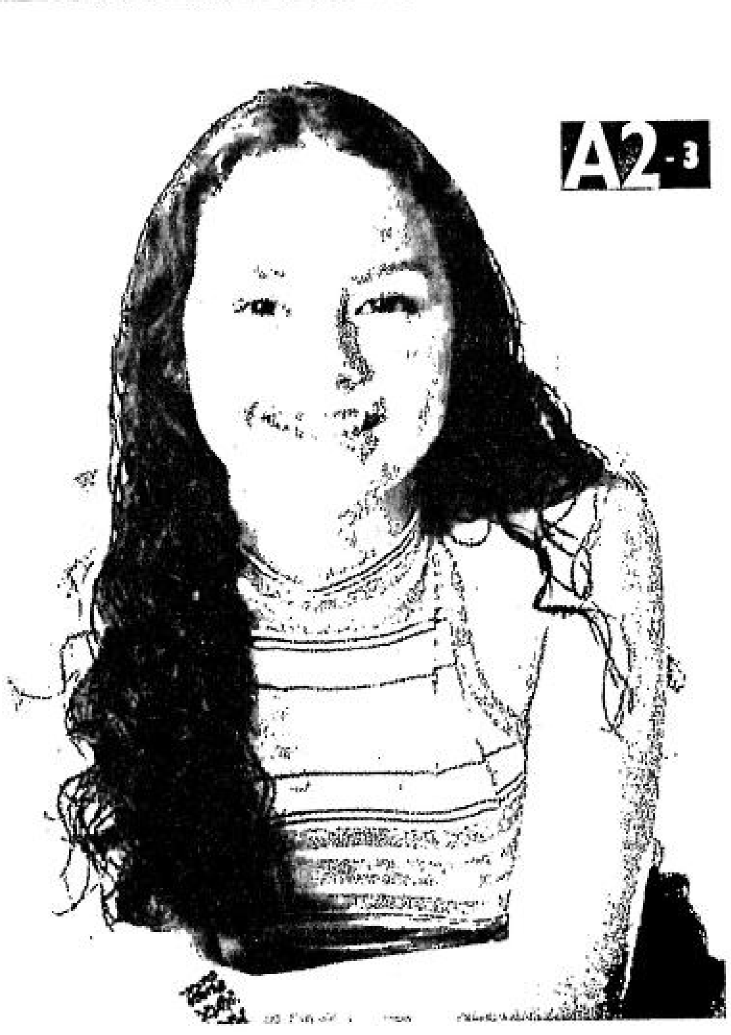
In any case, he considers himself lucky, career-wise. "I never dreamed I'd have solo movies. "I was just happy to be a dancer, to be part of Street Boys. Direk Chito discovered my talent for comedy. He was the one who urged me to audition at ABS-CBN."

But Vhong said he was worried that his movie, "D' Anothers," to be shown late this month, would be affected by the ongoing political crisis. "*Magkakagulo ba o ano*? I just hope this movie makes it."

Then, of course, he has long known that he can't have everything. "Something will always be sacrificed. In my case, it was the marriage that suffered."

He hopes to have a family again someday. But Vhong said it might take years to find the right woman. Right now, he said, he could say for sure that it's not Jill Yulo or his co-star Toni Gonzaga.

"I can't court Toni," he said. "I'd never make the grade. She's educated, and she's so talented. But I'm sure there's a woman out there for me."



JILL Yulo: What's with the pillow?

VHONG Navarro and Toni Gonzaga

Kapamilya caravan leaves for US today

ABS-CBN's "Kapamilya Summer Caravan sa Amerika" troop—made up of top network executives and artists—leaves today for its first destination, Los Angeles, California, where its top-rated show "ASAP Mania Live" will be staged at the Rosebowl Stadium in Pasadena tomorrow.

Next stop is San Francisco on July 23, at the Monster Park Fair Grounds (formerly Candlestick Park) on Jamestown Avenue. Here, "ASAP Mania" will be preceded by "The Buzz Live."

In LA, the pre-"ASAP Mania" presentation is a show starring United States-based comic Rex Navarette.

The stars in the caravan are "ASAP" mainstays Carlos Agassi, Erik Santos, Gary Valenciano, Jerome Sala, Kuh Ledesma, Nikki Gil, Piolo Pascual, Sheryn Regis, Toni Gonzaga, Vina Morales, Zsazsa Padilla. Only in LA: Diether Ocampo, Jericho Rosales and Martin Nievera. Only in San Francisco: Christian Bautista, Mark Bautista, Rachelle Ann Go and Sarah Geronimo.

From "The Buzz," mainstays Boy Abunda, AJ Dee, Chokoleit, Cristy Fermin and Kris Aquino are turning up in full force.

Guests for both shows are Antoinette Taus, David Pomeranz, Jasmine Trias, Joross Gamboa, Judy Ann Santos, Kim de los Santos, Lea Salonga, Nora Aunor, Rachel Alejandro, Roxanne Guinoo, Ryan Agoncillo, Vhong Navarro. Only in LA: Aaron Agassi and Ava. And only in San Francisco: Bea Alonzo and John Lloyd Cruz.

The caravan "captains" and hosts are led by Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III, chair of the board and Charo Santos-Concio, executive vice president and head of entertainment.

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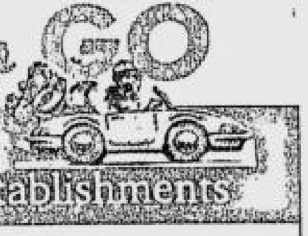

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City Garden celebrates sweet July

CITY Garden Hotel Makati is offering special promotions for families, couples, and business executives this sweet month of July.

For a stress free meeting and conference, City Garden Hotel Makati's flexible meeting rooms for 10 to 120 persons, complete with conference/seminar facilities and professionally-staffed, fully-equipped Business Center will surely guarantee success.

Services include Internet access, fax, and photocopying, secretarial assistance, documentation, among others. Meetings packages come for as low as P9,750+ per day inclusive of 2 snacks and lunch.

Its wedding and debut packages come for as low as P59,000+ inclusive of a buffet menu for 100 persons, a cake, souvenirs, floral arrangements, and other amenities. Thus, providing value for money and hassle-free arrangements. Reception venues may be held at its cozy, fully-equipped function rooms or at the al fresco Roofdeck, with a wonderful view of the metropolis.

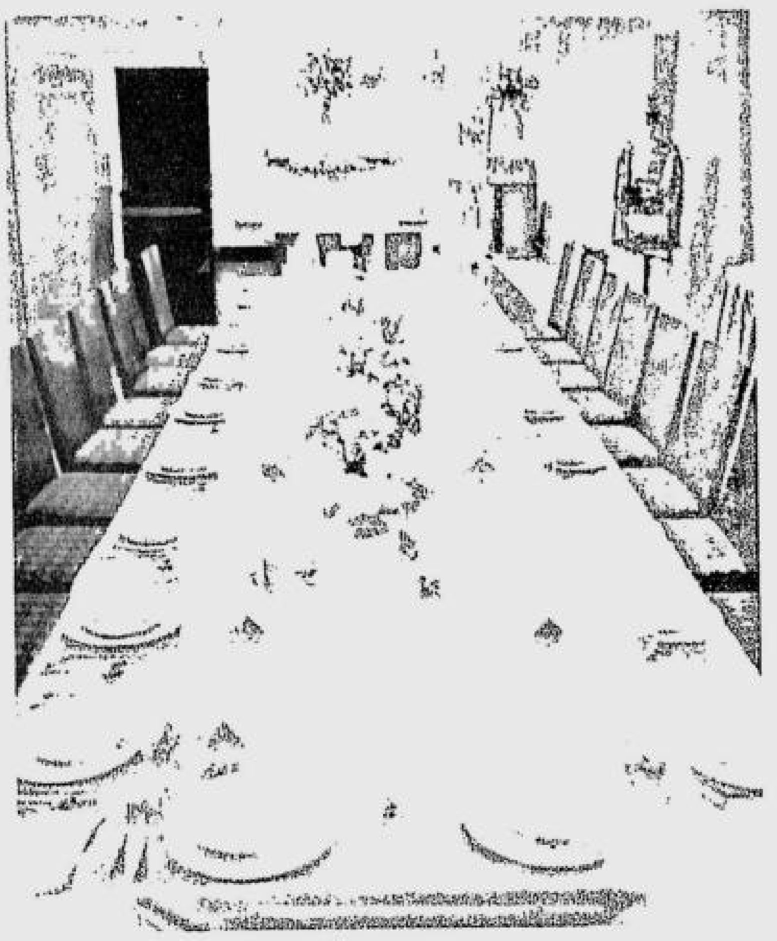
For those special get-togethers, its Party Package comes for as low as P24,750+ inclusive of buffet menu or barbecue grill and discounts on drinks. Spending a relaxing day or a weekend with the family is a breeze with City Garden Hotel's room offering as low as P1,350 per person on twin-sharing basis. One can already enjoy the hotel's tastefully elegant guest rooms and facilities, inclusive of a choice of free sumptuous buffet breakfast for two or a Spa service at the hotel's Body & Face by Mendez, free use of its open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck and its fully equipped Gym at the Penthouse. Two (2) children below 12 years of age, stay for free.

Those needing extra pampering, the Body & Face by Mendez at the hotel's Upper Penthouse level has special packages for individuals, couples or group. Try their Revitalizing Glow Package which comes with a choice of Salt Body Glow or Body Gommage and a choice of Swedish or Shiatsu Massage or their Rejuvenating Escape that gives you a choice of Combination or Aromatherapy Massage and a choice of Men's Facial or Oil Control Facial or Nurturing Facial.

For the month of July, its restaurants has prepared "Seafoods Galore", offering appetizing seafood dishes like Salmon With Tarragon, Grilled Gindara in Light Teriyaki Sauce and Lemon Chili Crusted Squid.

Accessibility is also not a problem as the hotel is just five minutes from the Rockwell and Glorietta malls and the Makati Commercial and Business District. As an added amenity, the hotel is offering free scheduled shuttle service to the Makati CBD.

City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com.



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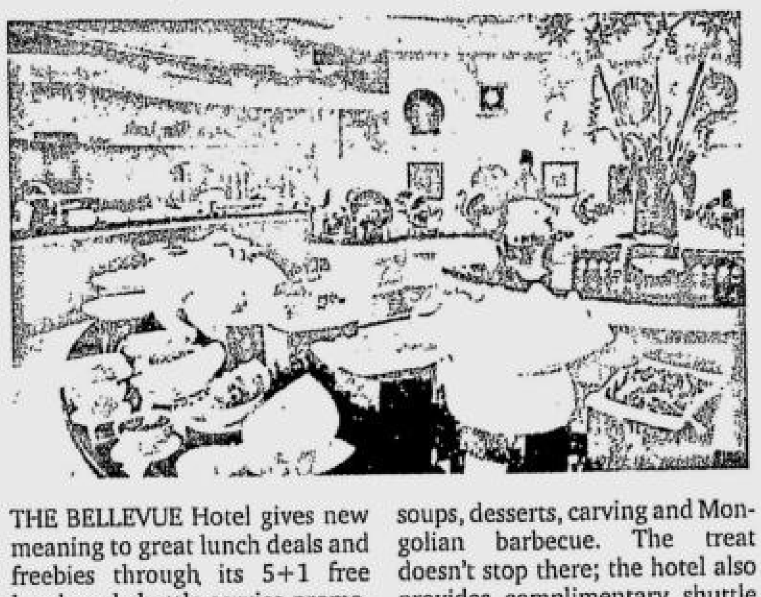
THE PALM HOTELS HOLDS ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

In its quest to provide better service to its valued guests and clients, The Palm Hotels composed of Las Palmas Hotel, Palm Plaza Hotel and The Executive Plaza Hotel recently had an enrichment seminar on front office operations. The trainer for the said course was Ghie T. Gomez (fifth from right), The Palm Hotels corporate director of sales and concurrent resident manager of Palm Plaza Hotel. Shown in the photo are the department heads and staff of the three hotels who attended the seminar together with (third from right) Dan Molina - Las Palmas Hotel resident manager, Connie Arles - The Palm Hotels corporate financial controller and Van Jose Torres - The Executive Plaza Hotel's resident manager.

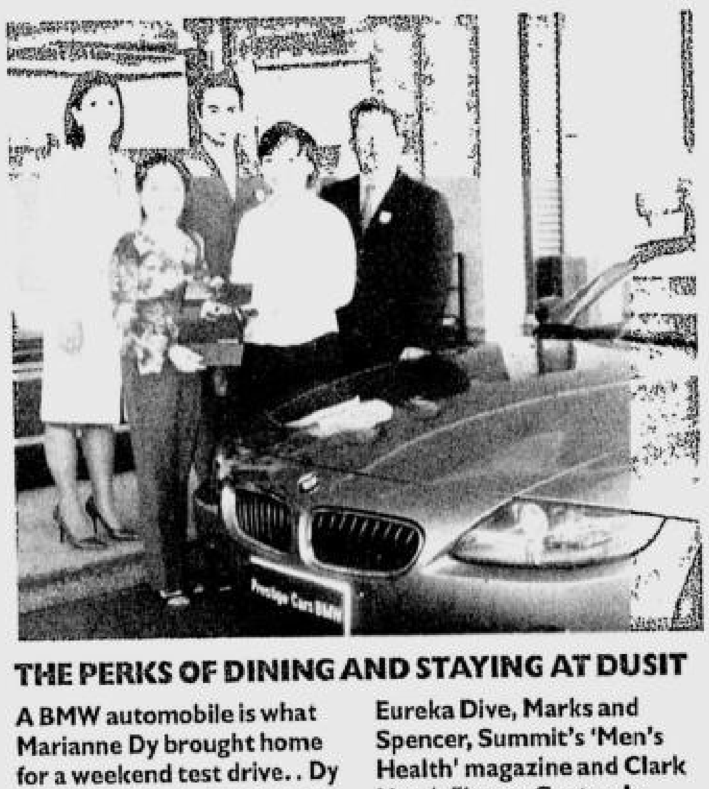
The Bellevue Hotel's free lunch, free ride promo



THE BELLEVUE Hotel gives new meaning to great lunch deals and freebies through its 5+1 free lunch and shuttle service promo. The innovator of hotel events and promos at the south of Metro Manila invites executives, office workers and ladies who lunch to sample sumptuous dishes at the Bellevue's main dining outlet, the cool and cozy Café d'Asie.

The 5+1 promo, available for lunch from Monday to Friday, entitles groups of six diners taking the lunch buffet to one complimentary buffet. Enjoy different hot and cold selections, salads, soups, desserts, carving and Mongolian barbecue. The treat doesn't stop there; the hotel also provides complimentary shuttle service around the Alabang business district for pick-ups and drop-offs. No more car-pooling or parking problems, The Bellevue takes care of guests' every want and need.

The shuttle service is valid only on nearby business establishments for a minimum of 5 persons. One hour prior reservation is requested. Call 771-8181 extension 8020 for inquiries or reservations.



THE PERKS OF DINING AND STAYING AT DUSIT

A BMW automobile is what Marianne Dy brought home for a weekend test drive. . Dy was one of the lucky winners of Dusit Hotel Nikko's 'A Day with Dad' promotion where the above was the major prize - a treat to diners and in-house guests on Father's Day. Marianne Dy and her family dined in one of the hotel's Asian specialty restaurants where they also got special perks and freebies from other partners such as Eureka Dive, Marks and Spencer, Summit's 'Men's Health' magazine and Clark Hatch Fitness Center. In photo are (from left) Dusit Hotel Nikko's sales and marketing director Melotte A. Mondelo, marketing communications manager Francis N. De Leon, Sonya Dy representing her daughter, Prestige Cars BMW's VP-marketing - Maricar Parco and Dusit Hotel Nikko's F&B director Gilbert Uy,

Where have real variety shows gone?

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Ophellia San Juan
Contributor

Game programs are a sign of the times. The economic crunch produces the long queues of participants outside the TV stations

NOWADAYS, if you're a gamer, you've got it made with our TV shows. Prizes and programs galore there are, and you have from lunchtime till evening to choose your fare.

In-between, there are *tele-novelas*, both local and Hispanic, with heavily made-up and fashionably dressed actors and actresses to dramatically twist your betting instinct.

But where have the old entertainment stand-bys—the variety shows—gone? One misses the comedy skits, the song-and-dance routines, and the occasional carnival-like side shows that they used to serve up.

There are, of course, dance numbers still, but they are more of the gaming tables' add-ons with flashily but skimpily clad dancers gyrating to the bated breath and quickened pulse of the sweating gamers.

These are signs of the times. The economic crunch produces the long queues of participants applying outside the TV stations, and the bigger the prizes the more their numbers swell, with the patience to wait for their chance stretching to weeks, even months.

Gossip and gore

This is also a cardinal rule for entertainment servers—to give the viewing public what it wants.

The public now wants money, and so there are the game shows; the public wants scandals—outside of their own persons—and so there are the gossip programs; the public wants gore—outside of their own skins—and so there are the crime stories.

Is that all there is to television, on which we spend money for subscriptions and costly electricity?

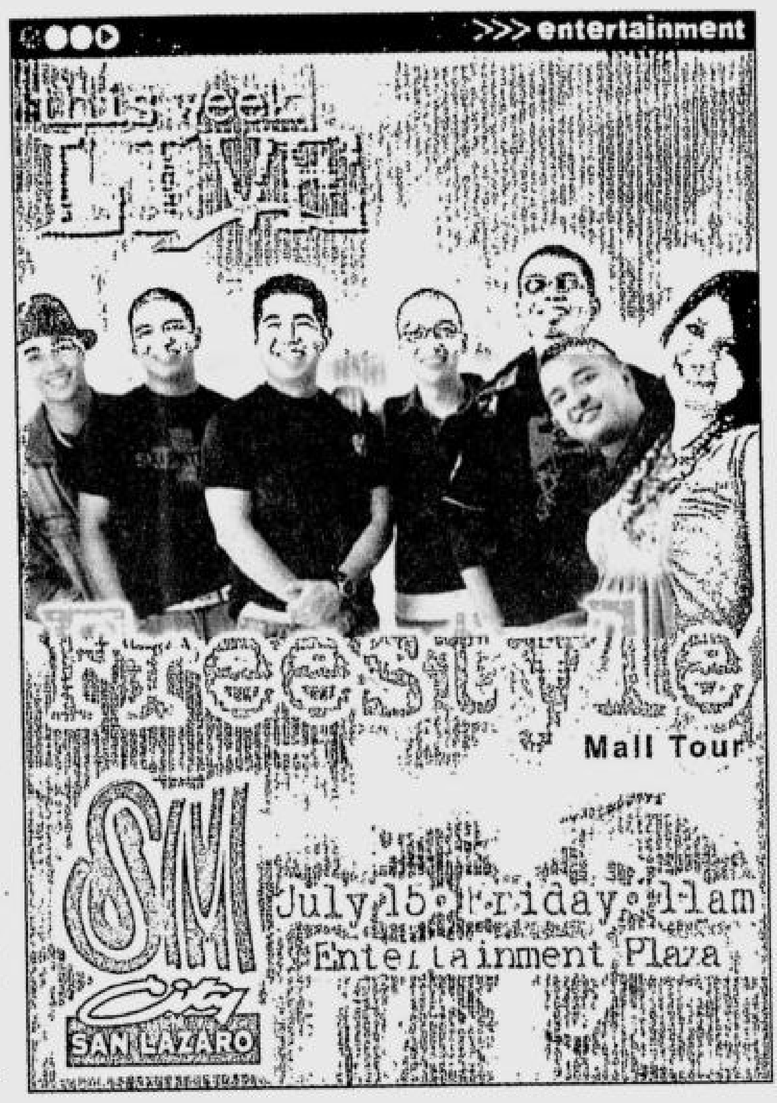
It need not be, say some professional broadcasters.

"There ought to be a balance," says Heidi O. Sison, for example, who started the "Tele-Aralan" show during martial law days and the long-running (20 years) "Seeing Stars with Joe Quirino," as well as the "Damayan," with Rosa Rosal, which still airs.

There is a side to TV which molds public tastes while catering to existing preferences, Sison avers, a facet to broadcasting that uplifts, inspires and even ennobles while entertaining. "It is the job of professionals to be aware of and bring this out," she insists.

She is aware that TV must be relevant to the times. In periods of war, shows should contain entertainment and personal safety features, she says. In times of peace, there ought to be enhancement of life contents. At all times, though, man's basic needs should not be forgotten: food, clothing and shelter topics must be there.

WHERE HAVE/ A3-2



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COSMETIC SURGERY COMES OF AGE

For centuries, men and women alike have been working to change the way they look to meet cultural ideals of beauty. Cosmetics, costumes, and accessories are often used to achieve this purpose; some even go to great lengths to change the shape of their bodies. Chinese mothers, for instance, bound their daughters' feet from birth to keep them tiny. Across ages and culture, people created a variety of techniques and utilized different tools to improve their appearance.

Cosmetic surgery deals primarily with the "ideal" appearance, which is shaped by the culture and the time in which you live. Right or wrong, modern culture places enormous emphasis on youth and appearance. People who don't embody the ideals often feel inferior or left out. Children who don't fit within the norms are often teased and sometimes shunned.

Many people think this view is shallow, that it ought to be different -- that the prevailing cultural emphasis on youth and appearance is wrong. They may be right. Yet, it's almost impossible to be part of a society and not be affected by the expectations and views of the people around you. Your views of beauty are defined, reinforced, or challenged by the world around you.

Plastic surgeons didn't invent the concept of enhancing personal beauty; they just took it to another level. The modern version is that advances in medicine, including the discovery of antibiotics, now make cosmetic surgery solutions a safe option for the general public.

What is Cosmetic Surgery?

Cosmetic surgery is real surgery thus, you need to be an informed consumer. Surgery is a subspecialty of medicine that focuses on the enhancement of appearance through surgical and medical techniques. It is specifically concerned with the maintaining of normal appearance, restoring it, or enhancing it beyond the average level toward some aesthetic ideal. In cosmetic surgery (sometimes called aesthetic surgery), you take a normal or near-normal part of the body and alter it to make it look better. For example, a young man with a weak jaw line seeks cosmetic surgery to alter his profile. Or a 60-year-old woman with a face that is normal for a 60-year-old decides to get a facelift to improve her appearance.

Things to consider before undergoing a surgery

Determine your purpose. Ask yourself, "Why do I want to have a plastic surgery?" More than the aesthetic and even financial aspect of the treatment, do you think you are physically and emotionally prepared to accept a new you? Making a decision is a personal journey and entails a great deal of contemplation on the part of the potential patient.

Ultimately, only you can decide what's best for you. Set realistic goals and expectation. Cosmetic surgery is neither magic nor a miracle cure. While lots of patients call their procedures "miracles," remember that these are scientific miracles, limited and on a human scale. Be fully informed and accept what your surgeon can and cannot do. As defined earlier, cosmetic surgery is more confined to enhancement or restoration rather than change or transformation.

On finding the right surgeon. The criteria on finding the right if not, the best surgeon should be high and tough. Special skill and knowledge are essential in the practice of plastic surgery. While your surgeon should be a certified and licensed physician, competency in anatomy, physiology, pathology and basic sciences should also be considered. A subspecialty and knowledge in all contributing disciplines like facial plastic surgery, general surgery, and dermatology are plus factors. In general, competency in cosmetic surgery entails a combination of knowledge, surgical judgment, technical expertise and ethics in order to achieve aesthetic improvement.

If you do your research and are convinced that cosmetic surgery is the only option to improve your appearance, your experience will be a happy one. Chances are, you'll come through surgery with a normal healing phase and reenter your life feeling better about your appearance and with a better self-image — like you've had an emotional facelift.

Dermclinic, one of the most trusted dermatological clinics in the country, offers Professional Cosmetic Surgery administered by its league of true skin experts. Combined with cutting edge facilities and technology, every cosmetic surgery procedure is handled with an unparalleled passion that transforms this science into an art.

To help you know more about the procedure or service you are interested in, it would be best to discuss with the doctor/surgeon your needs and expectations. Call or visit Dermclinic's nearest branch for a **FREE CONSULTATION** or contact the Dermclinic hotline at **818-6477**, for inquiries.

About Dermclinic

Dr. Vinson B. Pineda, a well-respected and internationally recognized dermatologist established Dermclinic more than 30 years ago and is now considered as an institution which has mastered the art and science of skin health and wellness. In fact Dermclinic, has been the learning ground of some notable dermatologist in town today.

* * *

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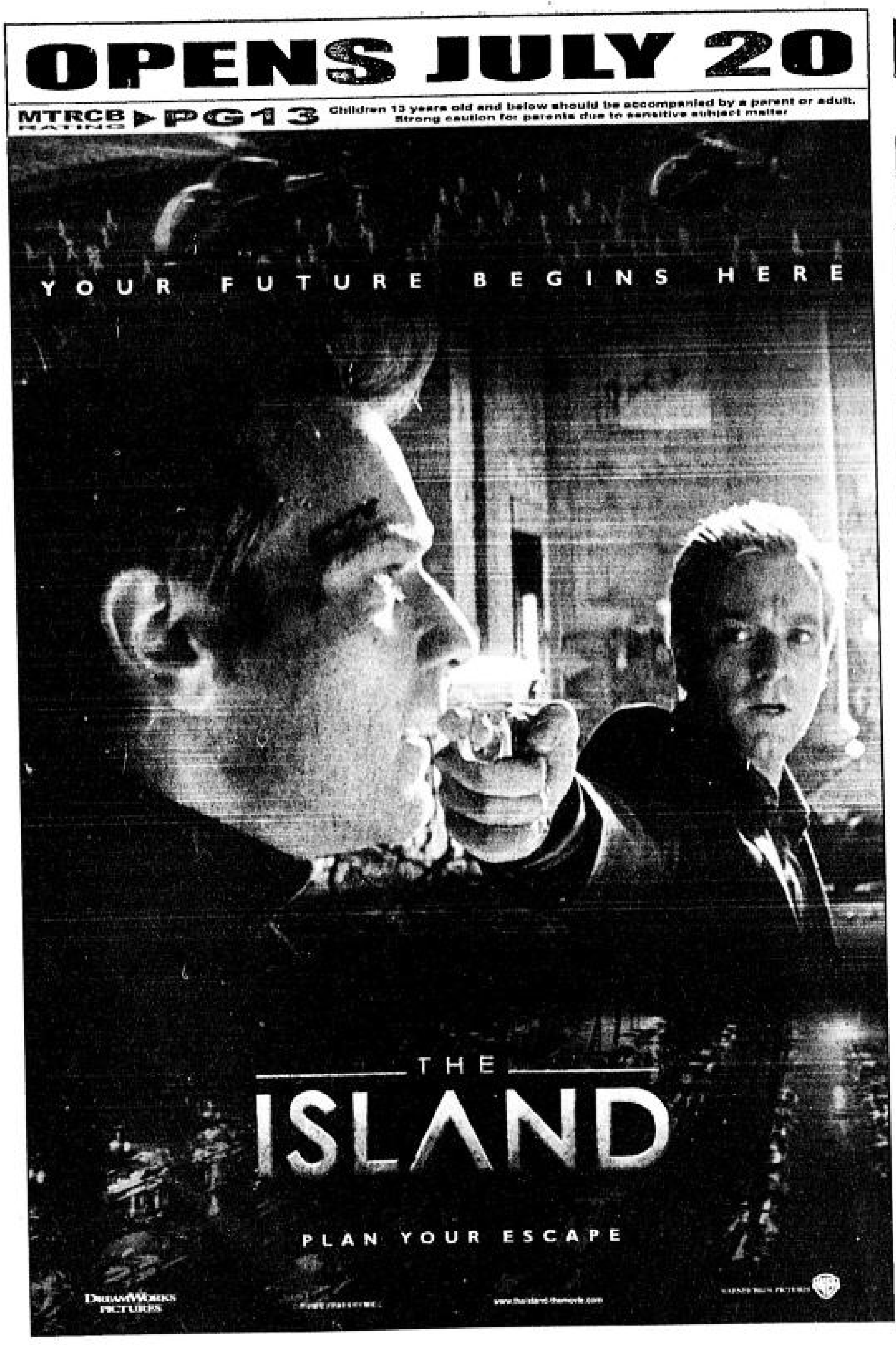
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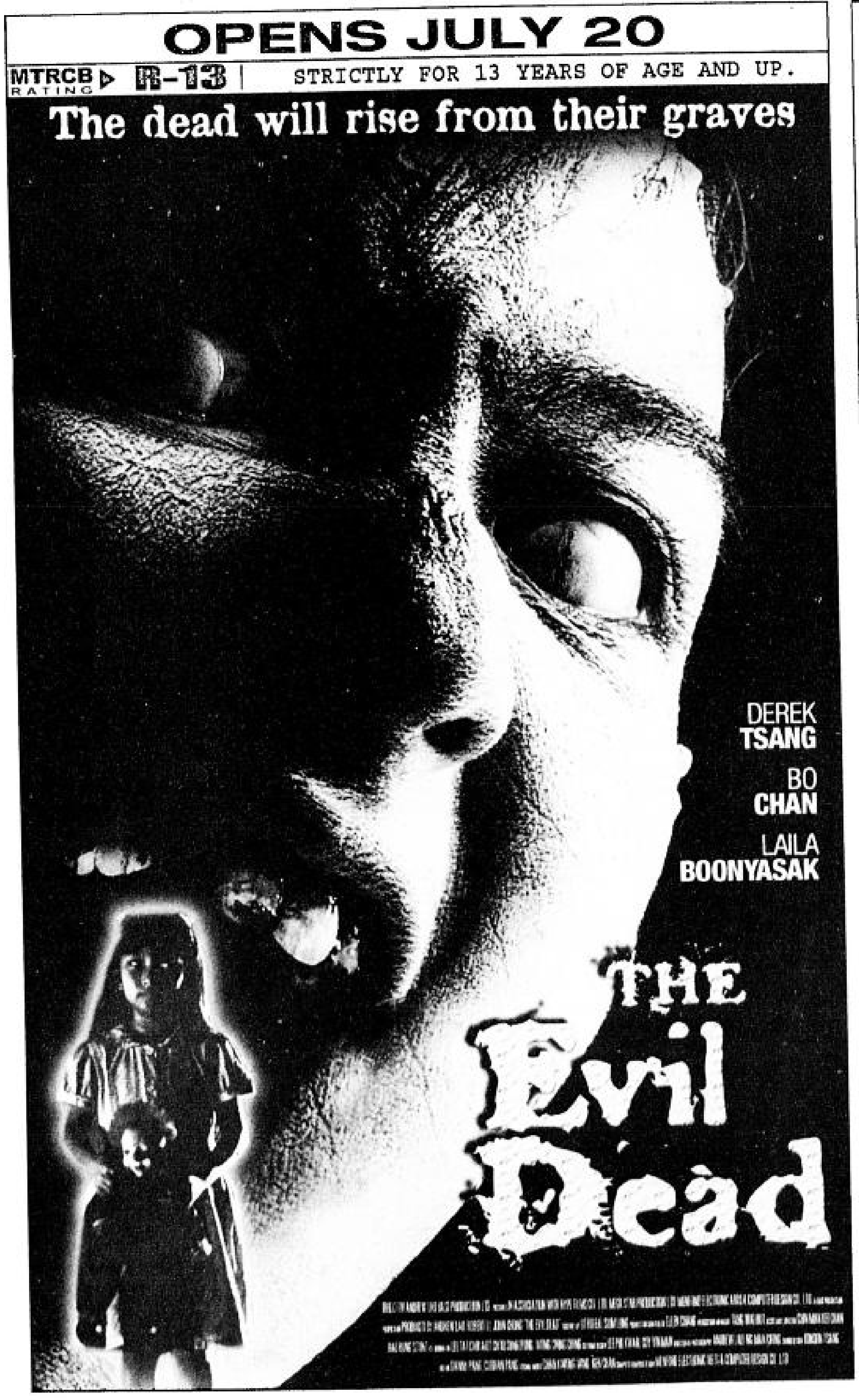
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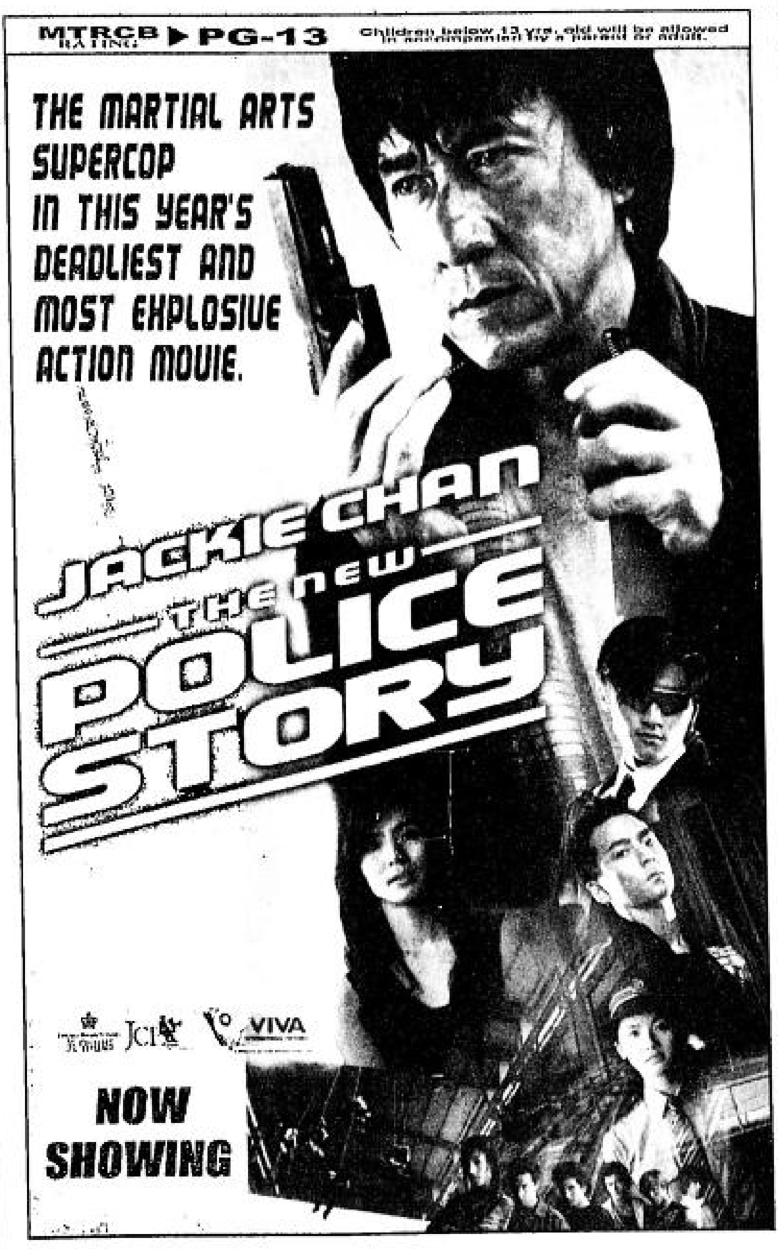
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What if... life gives you a second chance... to love the one you lost?

HELLO ... IT'S TRUE
That commercial with Vilma Santos and Luis Manzano? A little exaggerated but mostly true. Mother and son do have a special bond that is no secret in show biz. Entertainment writers confirm that Luis, formerly "Lucky," calls his famous mom regularly, frequently. He says, "Mom is my friend, confidante, acting mentor, life coach and loving mother."

...and Michael Bublé is the newest Starbucks endorser. The Canadian crooner stars in the coffeeshop chain commercial that uses his hit cover of "Come Fly With Me." The ad is currently airing in the United States.

Where have real variety ...

From page A3-1

Real danger

At no time, however, should TV aggravate negative situations. According to Heidi O. Sison, corruption, crime and crassness need not be staple fare while achievements, for example, and good character fail to get the attention-calling play-up and dramatic depiction they deserve.

"A very real danger," Heidi says, "is for TV's pervasive influence to twist values, so that eventually wrong becomes right, and vice versa. There can come a time when viewers are so saturated with the negative elements that they can accept corruption as a way of life, wrongdoing as so hopelessly institutionalized that one thinks only of how to get away with it."

Checks and balances still exist, however. Meager though they may be, they dictate that TV should be in good taste, maintain fairness, and do public service.

We can only hope that all shows will do just that.

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RICHARD Gutierrez and the cast of "Sugo"

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A downpour and some odd titles

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

A DOWNPOUR on the last Sunday of June sent the huge crowd outside the Aliw Theater, where GMA 7 was celebrating its 55th anniversary, scampering away.

Thus, many fans missed the red-carpet walk of Kapuso stars but still caught their idols in stellar performances, plus video tributes and interviews, because Channel 7 aired "No. 1 at 55: The GMA Anniversary Special" in two parts shortly after the event.

Televiewers got to watch the fluidly edited version of the event in the comfort of their homes, spared from patience-trying lulls that came after every musical number and awarding sequence, as well from numerous miscues that underscored the apparently inadequate preparation for the production.

It didn't help that Aliw Theater's stage was too small to meet the requirements of the musical numbers, often by a dozen or so performers, particularly in the opening.and ending presentations when the network's stars paraded in a show of force.

'Idol Mong Anti-Bida,' 'Ultimate Idols For Generations,' 'Ultimate Idol na 'Di Kayo Tatantanan'? GMA 7 marks 55th with fun

(The much more spacious Araneta Coliseum was the original choice for venue, but it had been previously booked, according to a source.)

The luckier ones

In any case, the live audience got the best of the anniversary special. Editing for TV may have made the proceedings smooth and snappy but it failed to capture the energy during the program proper and the creativity during breaks.

Every time the curtains rose, the audience screamed and showered the stars with thunderous applause. They sang along when Regine Velasquez belted out the network's theme song in the opening number. They lapped up Michael V's every punch line as Aling Mary, the quintessential teacher-homemaker and GMA 7's allegorical figure.

The hall shook and roared as the costumed casts of "Mulawin," "Encantadia" and "Darna" posed behind South Border vocalists Jay Durias, Duncan Ramos and Vince Alcaraz, Kyla and Jerome John Hughes and "Pinoy Pop Superstar" champion Jonalyn Viray—who sang the theme songs of the station's three biggest attractions and moneymakers.

Standing ovation

Even Felipe L. Gozon, network chair, president and chief executive officer, got a standing ovation when he was honored with a special citation.

At one point when the audience got restless, the production staff sent in Teri Onor of "Eat Bulaga" and "S-Files" to do impromptu stand-up comedy.

After Teri, "Extra Challenge's" Paolo Bediones and Ethel Booba came on stage and took over, drawing jokes from their personal lives—Paolo on his alleged love affair with Aubrey Miles, Ethel on the latest controversy involving her boyfriend Alex Crisano.

MIKE Enriquez

Unwitting entertainers were the bearers of trophies given out to the winners of text-in contests, most of them with odd titles—Idol Mong Anti-Bida for Alessandra de Rossi, Kapuso Sexiest Male and Female Idols for Alfred Vargas and Diana Zubiri, and Ultimate Idol Love Team for Mark Herras and Jennylyn Mercado—who each received P55,000 in cash. The same was true about the recipients of special awards—Tito, Vic and Joey as Ultimate Idols for Generations, Mel Tiangco as Ultimate Idol sa Serbisyong Pampubliko and Mike Enriquez as Ultimate Idol na 'Di Kayo Tatantanan.'

One more glimpse

Dusted in gold, the bearers posed as statues and moved like robots as they handed the trophies to the presenters. After a particularly long sequence, one of the bearers heaved a big sigh of relief. The audience rewarded that one with a round of applause and some hooting.

It was almost midnight when the show ended. People started making their way out of the theater, but more started coming in, still hoping to catch a glimpse of the stars.

Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar

THE SPIRIT of '67, the top retro band that performs Tuesday nights at Mandarin Oriental's Captain's Bar, introduces two new members—Milo Ocampo and Charlie Ysmael.

Ocampo and Ysmael join vocalists Maso Diez (lone female member), Johnny Velasquez, Bimbo Santiago and Zoe Zuñiga; lead guitarist Steve de Jesus, keyboardist Nato Canlas, drummer Arnold Austria, and bass guitarist Jake Arellano.

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For reservations, call 750-8888 extensions 2417 and 2418.

SPIRIT of '67

SHOW TIME

Today

"Rock to School—The Special Concert" at **Le Pavilion Roxas Boulevard** with **Bamboo, Kitchie Nadal, Sponge Cola** and **Session Road.**

Mitch Valdes in A Rockin' Comedy concert at the **Captain's Bar**, Mandarin Oriental Manila.

"Spectaculo," a dinner, magic, dance and full production show at **Club Mwah!** starting at 7 p.m. Call 535-7943.

Rhythm and Babes at Hyatt Regency's **Calesa Bar**, 10 p.m.

Nyoy Mannos and **Pseudonymz** at **Suburbia**

RJ and **Bloomfields** at **RJ Guitar Bar** along Jupiter Street, Makati; 9 p.m.

Fat Session at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Maila Andresat the **Hyatt Hotel**

K24/7and **Passage** at **Fiesta San Miguel Dusit Hotel Nikko**

Tomorrow

Rachelle Ann Go album tour at **Metropolis Star Alabang**, 5 p.m.

"Spectaculo," a dinner, magic, dance and full production show at **Club Mwah!** starting.at 7 p.m. Call 535-7943.

Nyoy Volanteand **Mannos** at **RJ Guitar Bar** along Jupiter Street, Makati; 9 p.m.

Wiseguys and **Ntwine** at **Suburbia**

Escape at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

July 17

Nyoy Volantewith **Mannos** at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

SPECTACULO at Club Mwah!

July 18

Freestyle at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Zyncxation at **Suburbia**

Maila Andresat the **Diwata Lounge** of the **Sulu Hotel**

Route 70 at **Fiesta San Miguel Dusit Hotel Nikko**

July 19

"Follies de Mwah!" at **Club Mwah!**. Call 535-7943.

A4, composed of **Dyords Javier, Pinky Marquez, Isay Alvarez** and **Bimbo Cerrudo**, at **Strumms Makati**

Freeverse at **Suburbia**

The CompanY at Merk's

Maila Andresat the **Casino Lounge** of the **Hyatt Hotel**

Mocha with **Spin Art** at **Fiesta San Miguel Dusit Hotel Nikko**

Spirit of '67 at the **Captain's Bar** of the **Mandarin Oriental**

July 20

"Follies de Mwah!" at **Club Mwah!**. Call 535-7943.

Side A at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Twisted Pair at **Suburbia**

Maila Andresat the **Pan Pacific Hotel**

Silk at **Fiesta San Miguel Dusit Hotel Nikko**

July 21

"Follies de Mwah!" at **Club Mwah!**. Call 535-7943.

Rueben Laurente of The CompanY at the **Hard Rock Café**

Wiseguys at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Restrospect and **Keystone** at **Suburbia**

Kearney Street at **Fiesta San Miguel Dusit Hotel Nikko**

July 22

"Spectaculo," a dinner, magic, dance and full production show at **Club Mwah!** starting at 7 p.m. Call 535-7943.

Rhythm and Babes at Hyatt Regency's **Calesa Bar**, 10 p.m.

Fat Session at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Jimmy Bondoc and **Pseudonymz** at **Suburbia**

Maila Andresat the **Hyatt Hotel**

K24/7and **Passage** at **Fiesta San Miguel Dusit Hotel Nikko**

July 23

"Spectaculo," a dinner, magic, dance and full production show at **Club Mwah!** starting at 7 p.m. Call 535-7943.

Escape at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

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Pinoy an early favorite in search for a rock star

Australian band INXS members think Mig Ayesa is 'amazing—great singer, great performer'

MIG AYESA, Pinoy from Sydney

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

AT HIS prime in the 1980s, INXS lead singer Michael Hutchence was the band's star attraction—a terrific performer oozing with charisma, much like a handsome Mick Jagger or a lighthearted Jim Morrison.

Hutchence collaborated with keyboardist/guitarist/backup singer Andrew Farriss in co-writing "Original Sin," "What You Need," "Need You Tonight" and a host of other big hits. The band has sold over 30 million records worldwide and is considered Australia's biggest musical export.

In 1997, Hutchence committed suicide in a Sydney hotel.

Did anyone care?

"We didn't know what to do, or whether anyone cared at all. Six months after, we started getting requests to do shows in Australia. We found ourselves in a situation where people really cared and wanted us to go on."

These quotes were from the band's cofounders, guitarist Tim Farriss and saxophone/guitar player/backup singer Kirk Pengilly. They spoke from Los Angeles by phone recently to music journalists in Manila, in connection with the high profile launch of "Rockstar: INXS," a live reality TV search for the band's new lead singer.

Farriss and Pengilly explained that the idea to conduct the search occurred to them sometime ago, but they didn't know how to do it. Things fell into place when producer Mark Burnett, whom Farriss and Pengilly described as the god of reality TV shows ("Survivor," "The Apprentice"), came into the picture.

HOST Brooke Burke and judge Dave Navarro

On January 2005, "Rockstar" held open auditions in 20 cities worldwide, including New York, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Toronto, London, Liverpool, Auckland and Sydney. Only 15 contestants made it to the finals. They are now competing in a 13-week elimination period that began on Tuesday, and which is being broadcast weekly on the Star World cable channel.

They like Mig

Part of the show's allure extends to its hosts: real rock star Dave Navarro (former guitarist of Jane's Addiction and sometime member of Red Hot Chili Peppers) and hot babe Brooke Burke (of the travel series "Wild On").

"Rockstar" features taped reality segments focusing on the contestants' interpersonal relationships and activities while living inside a Hollywood Hills mansion nicknamed the Rockstar Manor.

One of the finalists is 35-year-old Mig Ayesa, born in Manila, raised in Sydney and currently residing in London. Ayesa, whose credentials include a starring role in a London production of the Queen musical "We Will Rock You," is said to be an early favorite.

During the phone chat, Farriss and Pengilly joked: "Oh yes, Migs is Filipino but he grew up in Australia, so you can't steal him, all right?"

They proceeded to heap praises on Ayesa:

"Mig is an amazing performer and the others are gonna have to step up to the plate to compete against him. He's got a great voice … a very good singer … a natural choice to be in the final 15. They're all good, really, [but] somebody has to go every week."

How will the winner be chosen?

We want a lead singer who can also contribute to the creative process. We don't want a Michael Hutchence look-alike or sound-alike. We're looking for individuals who can be themselves and bring something completely new to INXS. But obviously the choice must have a great singing voice, stage presence, fashion sense…well, not to contradict but, you know, look at Mick Jagger, he's got great charisma and presence, but he's not a great singer…

INXS has always demonstrated an excellence in combining dance rhythms and rock riffs. You call call this "white boy dance music." Are you keeping an ear on the younger bands like Franz Ferdinand, who seem to be mining the same field?

We listen to all sorts of music and pick up influences along the way. We're very much aware of what's happening now. But at the end of the day, we do what we love to do and enjoy it. We rock, we love to make people dance and have a good time.

What does INXS mean?

Our first manager thought of that. Originally we wanted to perform behind bars of light, sort of to create an impression that we were "inaccessible." Also, it has only four letters—in Australian pubs it's all about how big you could get your name big on the poster. And also because were energetic people, very energetic live performers and so we called ourselves "excessive" people.

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Gov't posted budget surplus in June

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT recorded its second monthly budget surplus this year in June, showing a continued improvement in its fiscal position despite the ongoing political turmoil, the Department of Finance said yesterday.

Helped by better tax collection, savings on interest payments and prudent spending, the government registered a P246-million budget surplus during the month.

In a report, the DOF said revenue collection in June amounted to P62.036 billion while expenditure reached only P61.79 billion.

In April, the government posted its first monthly surplus for the year of P3.3 billion.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the first semester budget deficit amounted to only P67.51 billion, P31 billion better than the ceiling of P98.515 billion. Collections during the six-month period stood at P384.38 billion while expenditure reached P451 billion.

The DOF also reported that borrowings in the first semester stood at P153.194 billion.

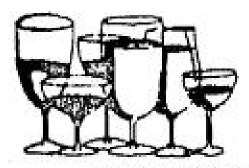
Cruz said the fact that the government was P31 billion ahead of its deficit program in the first half meant that it was much likely to outperform its deficit target for the full year. Given the first semester performance, the deficit for the whole year would likely amount to only P150 billion or lower than the ceiling of P180 billion, he said.

"The performance in the first half did not even factor in the VAT (value-added tax). With the VAT, we can perform much better," Cruz said in a press briefing yesterday. He expressed confidence that the national government would be able to achieve, if not surpass, its fiscal targets for the year despite the delay in the implementation of the Expanded Value-Added Tax.

The immediate lifting of the suspension of the VAT implementation will enable the government to accelerate the attainment of its medium-term goal of having a zero deficit. balanced budget.

Achieving the zero deficit earlier than the 2010 target would mean the government could increase its budget for vital expenditures, such as more classrooms for public school students and more roads and bridges, at an earlier date, Finance Assistant Secretary Gil Beltran said.

WHAT'S INSIDE



COCKTALES/B3

Women learn to trim their way to fortune
/B7

Court asked to stop Go group from voting 10% EPCIBank stake

**By Doris C. Dumlao
and Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

THE STATE-owned Government Service Insurance System has asked the Makati Regional Trial Court to stop the Go family from voting a disputed 10.8-percent stake in Equitable PCIBank.

It also asked the court not to allow the postponement of the bank's annual stockholders meeting slated for July 19.

In a petition filed with the Makati RTC last July 8, the GSIS sought a temporary restraining order and/or writ of preliminary injunction against EPCIBank and its subsidiary EBC Investments Inc. (EBCII), which acquired the shares in question when the Go family's Equitable Bank merged with PCIBank in 1999.

Represented by legal counsels Elmer Bautista and Clarence De Guia, the GSIS accused the Gos of illegally using the shares to maintain management control of EPCIBank "at the detriment and prejudice of other stock holders."

"The threat of the Go group to vote the subject shares in the annual stockholders meeting of EP CIBank is irregular and illegal, and should be immediately restrained and enjoined," the petition said.

It said EPCIBank "utilized its control and dominance over EBCII for a dishonest and unjust purpose, i.e. to perpetuate in power a mere minority group in EPCIBank, the Go group" through the use of the 78.8 million subject shares, causing "grave and irreperable injury" to the voting rights

COURT/ B2

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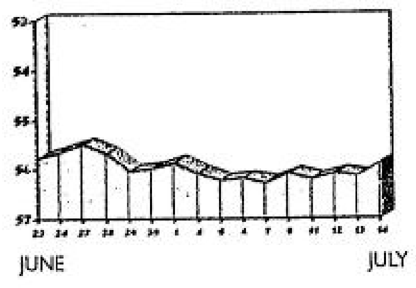

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As of 5 p.m., July 14, 2005

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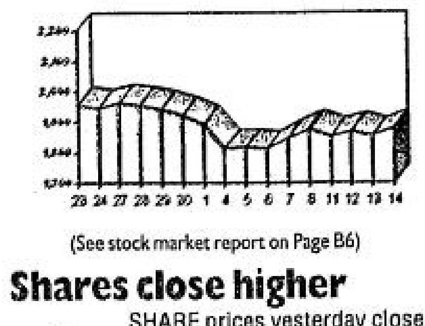
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



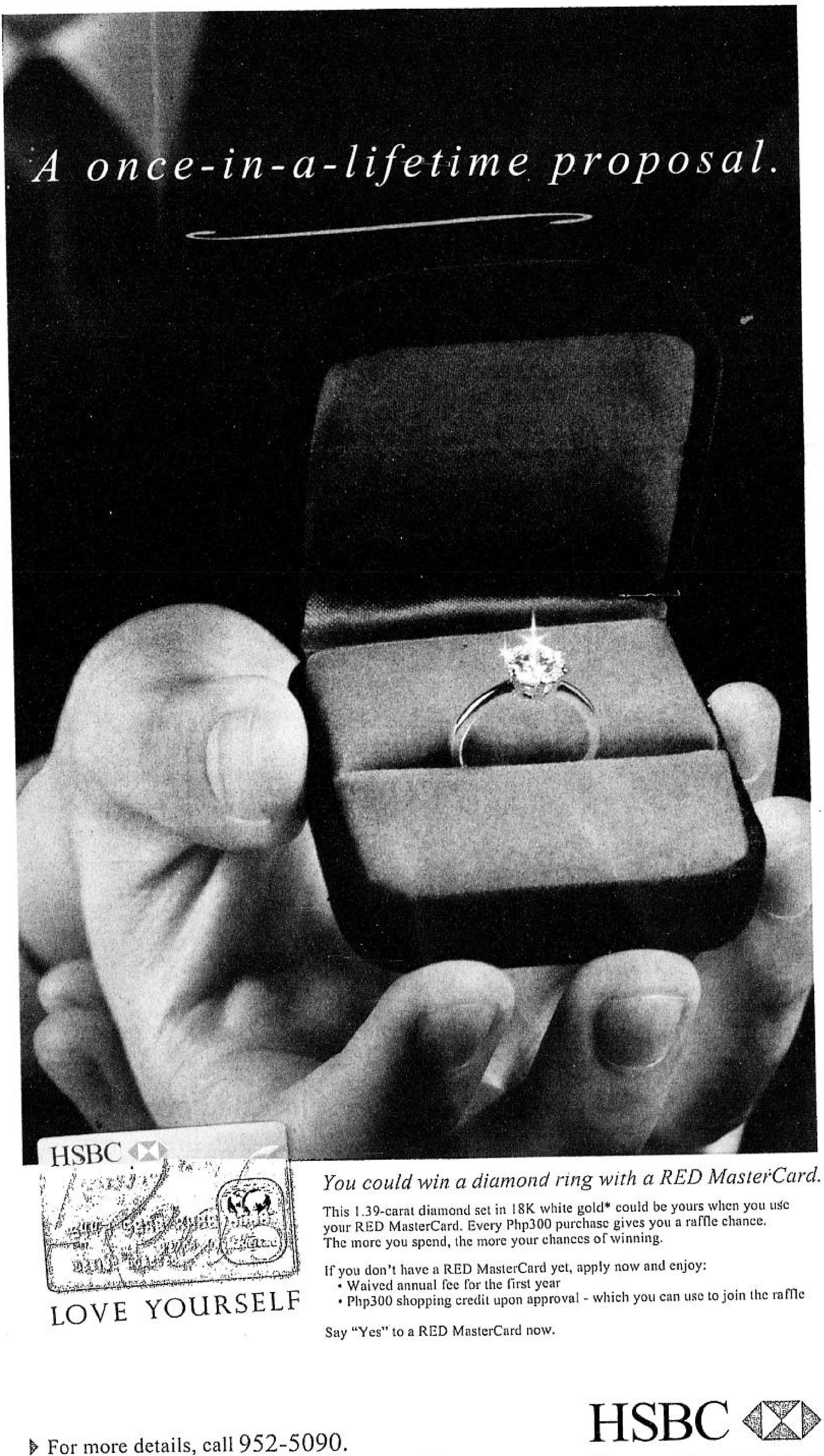
(See stock market report on Page B6)

Shares close higher

SHARE prices yesterday closed 1.37 percent higher with investors snapping up bargains a day after a huge protest rally calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo passed peacefully, dealers said.

However, they said, volumes remained weak amid worries that the political crisis could drag on and eventually weigh on corporate earnings.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 25.42 points to 1,879.46. It moved between 1,854.04 and 1,881.82. Volume was 439.5 million shares worth P1.4 billion. Gainers beat losers 55 to 15, with 33 stocks unchanged. *AFP*



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NDC to sell ₱600-M Manila Gas property

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Development Co., the government's investment arm, is set to bid out a subsidiary's property in Manila, from which it expects to raise at least P600 million for various infrastructure projects.

NDC chair and chief executive Arthur Aguilar told reporters the firm would sell a Manila Gas Corp. property in Paco, Manila.

Based on initial appraisals, Manila Gas' property of at least 5.2 hectares is estimated to fetch between P12,000 and P18,000 per square meter.

Bidding procedures will start in mid-July while the bidding proper will be held in the first week of August.

NDC would keep half of the proceeds from the Manila Gas property while the other half would go to the national government.

Last April, a government source said NDC had lined up through another subsidiary four new road projects worth P30 billion as part of its portfolio of priority projects.

These include the P12-billion North Luzon East Expressway (NLEE), which would run parallel to the existing NLEX; the 21-km, P9-billion Calabarzon expressway that is meant to decongest the Aguinaldo highway that links Metro Manila to Southern Tagalog; the extension of the yet-to-be-built Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway to Pangasinan, and the 10-km Circumferential Road 6 that would serve as a by-pass along the Manggahan floodway in Pasig City.

In May, then Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos said his department was looking at ways to raise as much as P5 billion for NDC's infrastructure projects.

Royalty from Malampaya eyed

THE GOVERNMENT stands to earn $300 million to $600 million in royalties from the proposed development of the Malampaya oil rim, a senior energy official said.

Philippine National Oil Co. president Eduardo Mañalac said amount was based on the estimated 25 million to 40 million barrels of oil reserve in the 56-meter thick zone below the 600-meter thick natural gas layer being operated by a consortium led by Shell Exploration Corp. (SPEX) and Chevron-Texaco (Chev-Tex).

In a statement, Mañalac said should oil prices in the world market remain within the $40 per barrel range in the next two to three years, the Malampaya oil rim could fetch between $1 billion and $1.6 billion in revenue.

This is a conservative estimate since oil is now at about $60 per barrel, he pointed out.

Mañalac also cited current moves by the Department of Energy (DoE) to review the service contract covering the development of the Malampaya oil and gas field. The review was triggered by earlier pronouncements by SPEX and Chev-Tex that they would not be involved in the development and extraction of the oil deposit because that would not be commercially viable.

The DOE finds the provision "very disturbing and that it needs to be reviewed," he said.

He earlier said that at least five local and foreign firms had expressed interest in the development of the oil rim.

Court asked to stop . . .

From page B1

of the GSIS and other shareholders.

Although the subject shares have no voting rights, the petition claimed that EPCIBank, EBCII and entities allied with them were intending to continue using the disputed voting rights.

Being treated as treasury shares in the books of EPCIBank, the petition said these should not have voting rights and not included in the counting of the outstanding capital stock in determining quorum in the annual stockholders meeting.

If the subject shares would not be allowed to be voted upon, the petition said the Go group would be entitled to only four seats in the 15-member EPCIBank board, while the GSIS and the Social Security System, allied with a few other shareholders, would be entitled to at least seven seats.

However, if the subject shares were allowed to be voted upon, the petition added the Go group would then be guaranteed five seats in the board versus the GSIS-SSS' combined guaranteed seats of only six.

The petition further cited a Monetary Board ruling which stated that EBCII was illegally holding on to the subject shares, as the company was asked to dispose of these shares within two years after they were acquired in 1999.

Also, the GSIS said there was an extreme urgency for a TRO on any postponement of the stockholders meeting on July 19 as pushed by the Go group. The GSIS said the group was buying time to retain control of the bank and defeat the will of the majority. It said there was no justifiable and valid reasons to re-set or postpone the meeting.

In the meantime, the Securities and Exchange Commission is keeping its hands off the issue.

In a letter to a minority shareholder of the bank, the SEC said intra-corporate disputes were no longer under its jurisdiction.

Lawyer Andrea Rigonan dela Cueva, in behalf of minority shareholder Trans Middle East (Phils) Equities Inc., earlier asked the SEC to clarify how the EBCII shares would be voted.

Trans Middle East also objected to the voting of the shares saying that they were treasury shares.

Earlier, the group of Henry Sy, which also owns a minority stake in BDO, asked the court to stop the Go family from using the bank's amended bylaws during the stockholders meeting, saying the charter was earlier rejected by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Through its action to secure a court order to stop EPCIBank from applying its anti-competitor provision in its bylaws in next week's stockholders meeting, Banco de Oro has finally shown its hand as the mastermind behind the plot to seize control of EPCIBank and demonize the family of (bank) chairman Antonio Go," said the chair's executive assistant Rene delos Reyes in a press statement.

Delos Reyes said legal precedents had already settled the issue of whether private companies could legitimately bar the entry of competitors into their boards such as the cases involving San Miguel Corp. and Philippine Long Distance Co.

"BDO, we must emphasize, doesn't have enough shares to get even one-half of a board seat in EPCIBank. We are afraid that all this propaganda is just designed to bring down the price of EPCIBank shares so that BDO and its owners can again try to buy them at a lower price," he said.

In the meantime, EPCIBank appealed for the reconsideration of the SEC ruling disqualifying Roberto Romulo as an independent director of the bank.

"The continuing effort of Banco de Oro and its owners to gain control of EPCIBank, despite numerous setbacks, is manifest in their attempt to stop the bank from using the anti-competitor provision in its by-laws, which would prevent the entry of BDO officials into its board," said Romulo in a statement.

He said that after being foiled in a previous attempt to buy into EPCIBank, BDO now wanted to enter the board through the backdoor.

"The fact that GSIS and SSS officials are lending themselves to the scheme of BDO , through a government takeover of the bank, makes the effort even more questionable. The investment guidelines of our pension funds expressly prohibit them from taking over companies they invest in," he added.

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Mr. John's tied hands

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

ROBINSONS Savings Bank has not held any discussion with Equitable PCI Bank toward any planned stock swap, the chair/CEO of Robinsons Savings Bank, Lance Gokongwei, said yesterday.

Gokongwei's fresh denial came amid boardroom rumors at Equitable PCI Bank that its retained law firm, Accra, had already prepared the documents for a stock-swap for the 10-percent "treasury" block held by subsidiary EBC Investments.

The disposal of the 10-percent block has become especially urgent given a new Monetary Board order rebuking EBC Investments for keeping the shares and ignoring an earlier 1999 Monetary Board order to dispose of them.

The 10-percent block represented bank funds used by the Gos to acquire and merge the bigger PCI Bank in 1999, the swing block that bigger shareholders SSS and GSIS claim the Gos want to unilaterally appropriate to keep the family's "artificial" majority in the 15-member bank board.

Gokongwei said he had talked to his father and that the taipan denied having visited the Equitable PCI Bank headquarters on Monday, as had been reported in this column. An Equitable PCI board member claims at least two bank employees saw John Gokongwei in the bank premises that day.

According to sources close to the Gokongweis, the taipan himself wants to bail out the besieged Gos, but that his son and heir, whose hands are full running the family's airline and food empires, did not want the family to venture back into the profit-shrinking universal banking business.

"To doubting Thomases, John Gokongwei is in fact leaving for the United States on Sunday and will not be here for Tuesday's shareholders meeting" of Equitable PCI Bank, said a JG Summit official.

As further proof that the Gokongweis are supposedly distancing themselves from the boardroom battle between the Gos and SSS-GSIS-Romualdez combine, Gokongwei lawyer and son-in-law, Perry Pe, has been holed up in Singapore together with wife Robina for over a week now in what may be called in polite circles as a "medical mission."

But that's another story, worth reporting in Baby magazine.

Still no Go

AS of press time yesterday, the nominations committee of Equitable PCI Bank has not yet released the names of qualified candidates for the 15-member board, raising fears from the SSS and GSIS that the Go management plans a repeat of last year's last-minute disqualification of their nominees.

The nominee list should have been finalized last Monday, so as to give time to those who may be rejected to file the appropriate appeals.

Both the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System took the unprecedented step of placing ads in yesterday's papers, questioning any move by the bank management to have the Tuesday shareholders' meeting postponed.

The SSS and GSIS said their combined 38 percent is more than enough the one-third minimum vote to push through with the shareholders' meeting under the Equitable PCIBank by-laws, even with Go-dominated board voting for a postponement.

Rally profits, hotel prospects

JULY and August are traditionally slow retail months, but the new Jollibee outlet in Insular Life, as well as McDonald's in the nearby Paseo Center were doing roaring business Wednesday, as anti-GMA crowds were shouting themselves hoarse in that crucial intersection.

Too bad other retails stores such as Delifrance, Teriyaki Boy, Pizza Hut, Gerry's Grill and Starbucks have yet to open in the redeveloped Insular Life ground-floor food court.

The fast-food venture came almost as an afterthought.

Insular Life CEO Vicente Ayllon said the Four Seasons had wanted to lease part of the property in the 1990s for a planned hotel, but the plan did not push through, largely because the Ayalas had made sure the only hotels in the area would be built on Ayala property.

That leaves the Locsin-designed BPI headquarters, with its eyesore open-air car park-garage, as the lone and ideal candidate for such mixed-used redevelopment.

Heard through the grapevine

THE HYATT 10 only came to see former President Aquino to inform her of their impending resignations, but somehow during the conversation, the Edsa I leader convinced the group to also publicly call for the resignation of the Edsa II leader.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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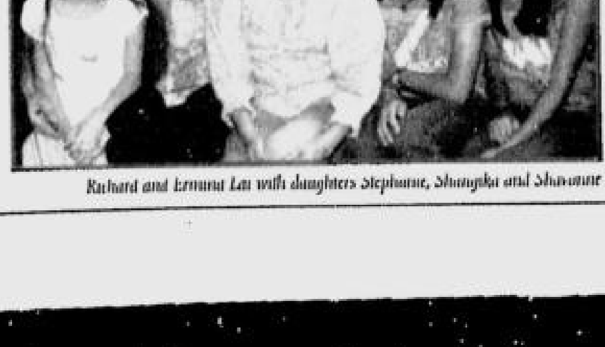

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AUCTION

Asean intensifies trade promotion

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ASSOCIATION of Southeast Asian Nations today will launch an Internet-based network that will serve to promote cross-border trade and investments as part of the effort to promote regional economic integration.

The Department of Trade and Industry yesterday urged the local business community to use the system, dubbed Asean Consultation to Solve Trade and Investment Issues or ACT, to address problems related to the Philippines' implementation of Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) scheme.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino, DTI officer in charge, said the ACT aims to support the creation of a pro-business environment within ASEAN.

"(It) will allow our private sector to cut through red tape and achieve speedy resolution for their operational problems related to cross-border Asean trade and investment issues," Aquino said.

He explained that the ACT directly links the national administrations of Asean member countries through a shared online database overseen by the Asean Free Trade Area Unit of the Asean Secretariat.

The DTI's Bureau of International Trade Relations would serve as the country's National ACT agency, with which complaints may be lodged.

Clients can monitor the progress of a given case via the online ACT database. A deadline for the resolution of the case is indicated by the database, which is also monitored by the AFTA Unit of the Asean Secretariat until a solution has been found.

The establishment of the ACT facility is one of the commitments set under the Second Declaration of Asean Concord or the Bali Concord II, upon recommendations of the ASEAN's High Level Task Force.

The ACT was modeled after the European Union's SOLVIT mechanism which was established under the Single Market Action Plan of 1997 and Communication on Effective Problem Solving in the Internal Market.

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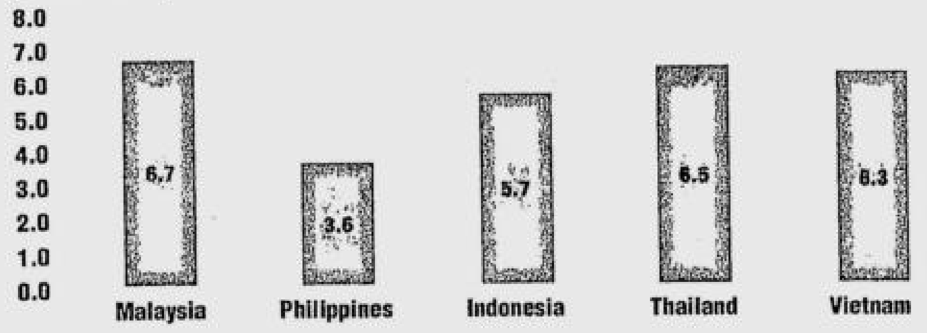

The farmer's voice

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

LAST July 7, 2005, key leaders of the Alyansa Agrikultura, the largest coalition of farmers and fisherfolk in the country, met to assess the current crisis.

The Alyansa is composed of 39 national and local federations and organizations. They represent the major agricultural sectors of rice, corn, coconut, poultry, livestock, fisheries, fruits and vegetables.

Agriculture's importance

Arcenio Tanchuling, a Kilusang Mangingisda leader and Tambuyog Development Foundation executive director, says we do not have a true democracy today.

"How can that be, when basic sectors like the farmers and the fisherfolk are not listened to?" he says.

Agriculture accounts for 70 percent of our work force if we include both agricultural production and agricultural related activities, like agricultural processing and agricultural inputs manufacturing.

The above graph showing how agriculture has been addressed by the Philippines as compared to four other South East Asian countries is provided by Dr. Elizeo Ponce.

To the credit of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the average 4 percent growth rate of Philippine agriculture from 2001 to 2004 is double the 2 percent growth rate from 1980 to 2000.

Nevertheless, it is below the growth rates of the other four countries shown in the graph.

Tanchuling asserts that we should first recognize agriculture's critical role in our nation and give it the appropriate attention.

Since 70 percent of our work force depend on it, we should at least give it the support our neighboring countries give their own farmers and fisherfolk.

Once agriculture's importance has been recognized, the appropriate level of resources should be given.

The budget required by the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (Afma) has never been provided.

The Afma mandates that P32.5 billion should be allocated annually for agriculture modernization.

But the agriculture department receives only P15 billion, less than one half of the required amount.

Within the Afma budget is a stipulation that P1.2 billion be given to support agricultural marketing, an area considered by many as needing even more assistance than production.

DA Assistant Secretary Salvador Salacup says that DA's Agriculture Marketing and Assistance Service (AMAS) gets less than P70 million.

If one adds the P50 million in the marketing budgets of all the other DA agencies, the total comes to less than P150 million, or 13 percent of the amount mandated by the law.

Ensuring transparency

However, even the existing DA resources should immediately be made transparent and accountable.

"What use would added resources be if they are stolen through corruption or wasted on politically attractive but useless projects?" asks Romeo Rubion, secretary general of the peasant group, Makabayan Pilipinas.

He suggests that this be done by the DA showing the use of their funds to the Agricultural and Fisheries Councils (AFC's) in the municipalities and provinces.

The law mandates that there be farmer sector membership in these AFCs, thus ensuring transparency.

Slowing down trade liberalization

But even if we have all of the above, we will still fail unless we address the too rapid agricultural trade liberalization.

"The trouble," according to Elias Jose Inciong, vice president of the United Broilers Association (Ubra), "is that the agricultural sector is being pitted against the consumer sector as if the two sectors are adversaries."

With very low tariffs from rapid trade liberalization, many argue that consumers will benefit from lower food prices.

However, with the unfair subsidies given to many food imports and the lack of our own agricultural support services, our farmers will lose their jobs.

Inciong says: "If the farmers lose their livelihood, the ranks of unemployed will swell, social unrest will rise, poverty will increase, and prices will inevitably go up."

"Furthermore, there is no assurance that these imported products will always be available, thus endangering consumers' food security. It is to the advantage of both consumers and farmers, who make up the bulk of the consumers anyway, to stop this too rapid trade liberalization," he says.

Conclusion

Recognizing agriculture's importance, providing adequate resources, ensuring transparency and accountability, and slowing down trade liberalization are but four important parts of a more comprehensive agricultural program that must be undertaken.

Last July 7, the farmer's voice was heard loud and clear in the position unanimously taken by the Alyansa Agrikultura as they analyzed the current critical situation: "All the changes that are being contemplated during this period of crisis will not be meaningful unless fundamental and thorough policy and institutional reforms are made for the agricultural sector, especially for the small farmers and fisherfolk."

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

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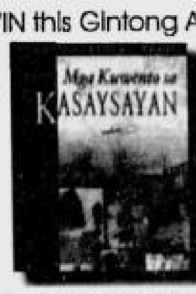
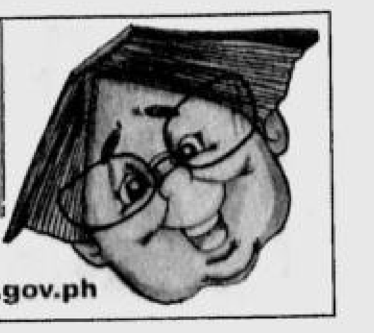
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Smart presses firm to buy its ETPI stake

By Clarissa S. Batino

LEADING mobile phone company Smart Communications Inc. is pressuring a subsidiary of Australian Gigahertz Network Intl. to make good its promise to buy Smart's stake in Eastern Telecommunications Phils. Inc.

Rogelio Quevedo, head of Smart's legal department, said AGNI subsidiary CPR Phils. Inc. was facing a possible lawsuit due to its failure to honor a four-year-old agreement to buy Smart's 9.8-percent stake in ETPI worth an estimated P214.4 million.

"From all indications, CPR clearly failed to fulfill its contractual obligation. Unless they remedy this situation, we will be compelled to go to the courts," Quevedo said.

CPR's obligation to buy Smart's shares stemmed from Smart's waiver of its right of first refusal in connection with the sale to PRN Philippines, Inc. (PRN) of British firm Cable and Wireless Plc's 40 percent stake in ETPI.

In return, PRN agreed to buy Smart's entire equity stake in ETPI.

PRN then assigned the obligation to purchase the equity of Smart in ETPI to CPR, an affiliate of PRN.

On Feb. 22, 2001, Smart and CPR signed the agreement requiring CPR to acquire Smart's shares in ETPI.

Smart, however, said that while it was pressing CPR to acquire its shares, it was not about to get involved in ownership row at ETPI, a sequestered firm formerly owned by Marcos associates.

Smart spokesperson Mon Isberto said Smart was not opposing the sale of ETPI's controlling stake to any party.

The Australian firm controlling 40 percent of ETPI has asked the Makati Regional Trial Court to bar a company linked to Marcos associate Roberto Ongpin from buying into ETPI.

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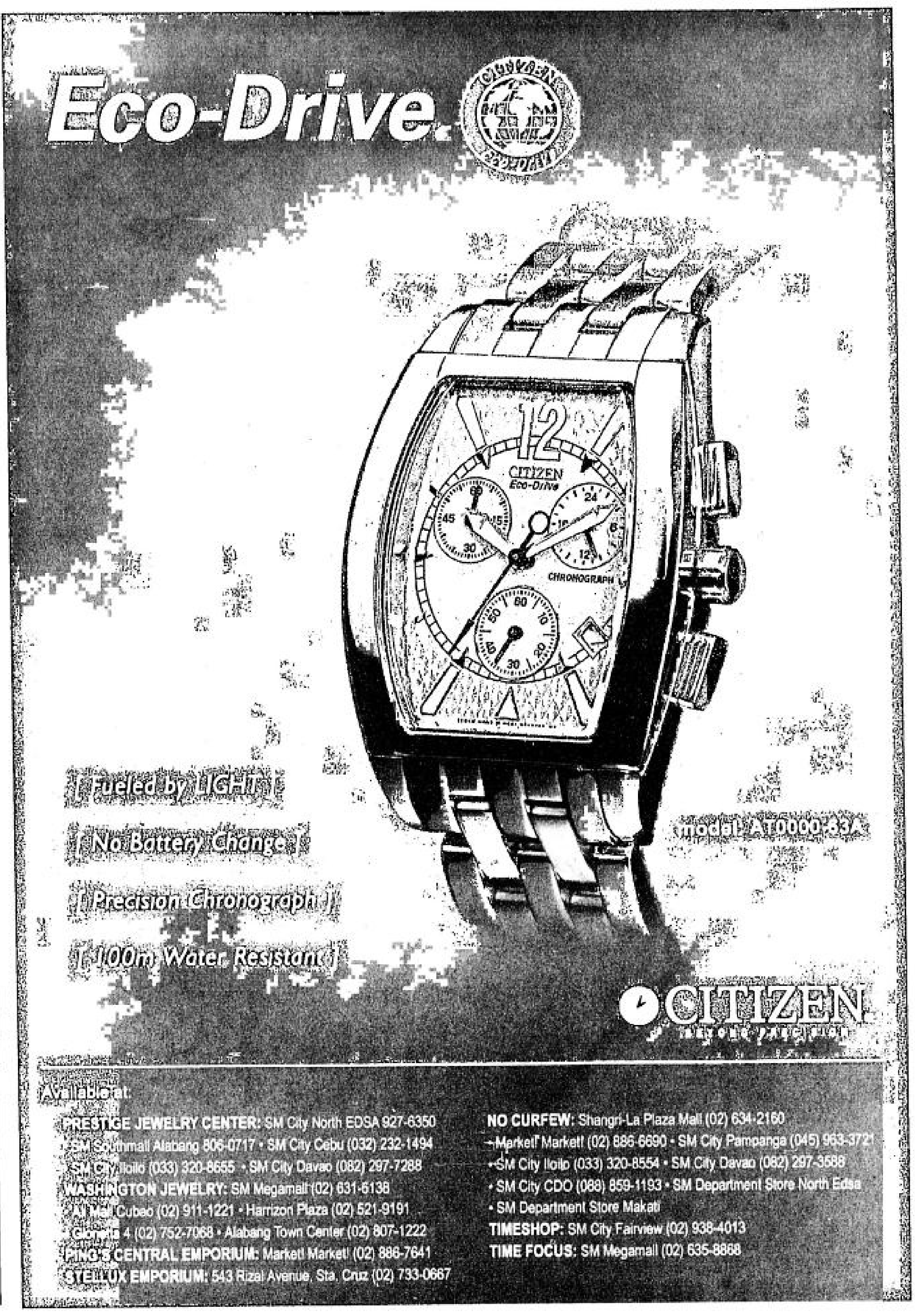
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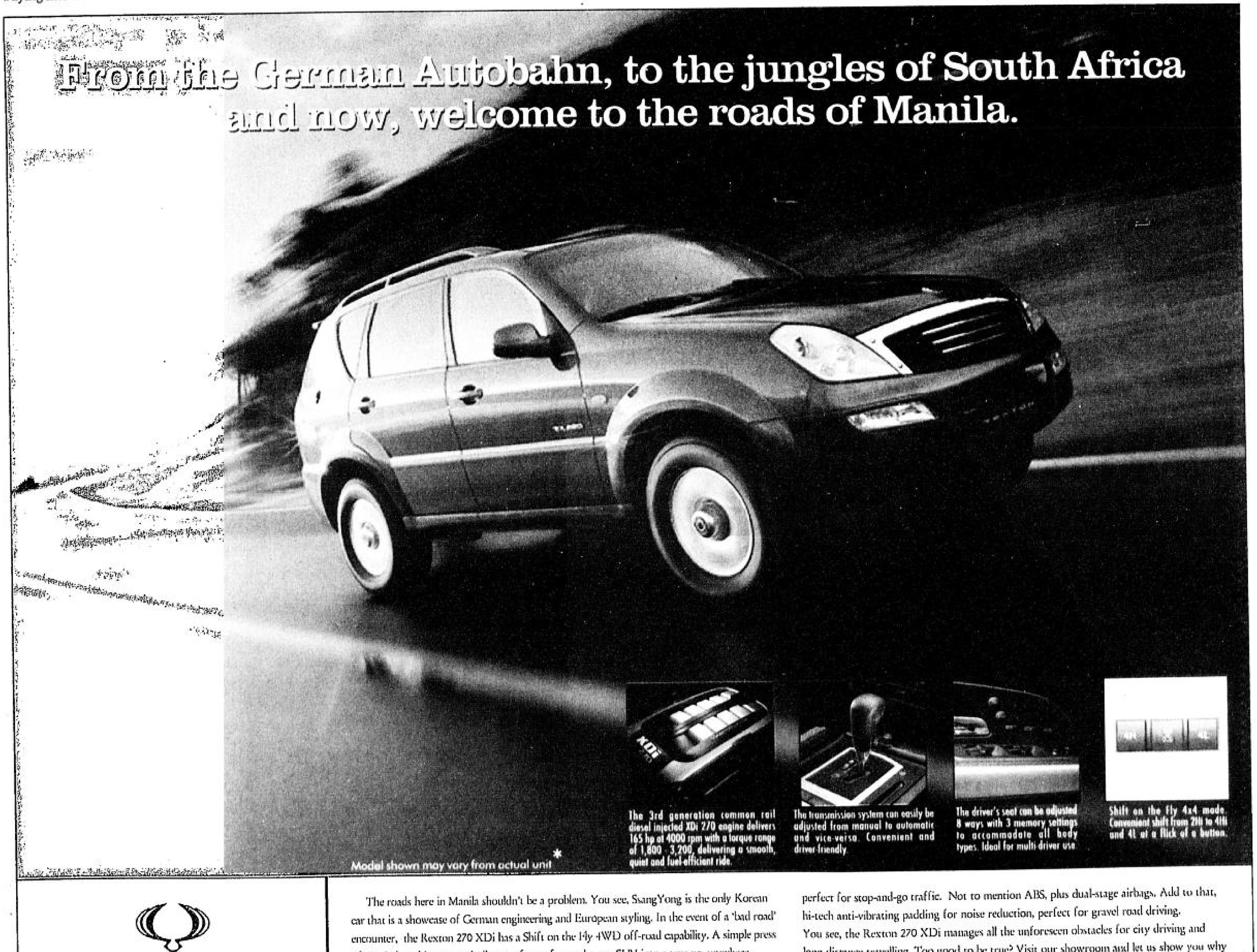
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  a. How to write so people want to start reading - and keep reading so eagerly they can't wait to reply
  b. The thing that's more important than a USP – and how to find it for your business
  c. FAQs answered, like:
    - What should go on (or inside) an envelope?
    - How long copy should be?
    - How many pieces should a mailing have?
- **Choosing the right media – Internet, email, tv, direct mail, radio, print?:** Proven formulae and techniques that work in all media, on-line and off, print and broadcast.
- **Bonus tip:** What's missing from 90% of messages; plus more of your FAQs are answered:
    - How do you get new ideas?
    - Which parts of a layout people look at?
    - How do you convince people you really are good?
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07-15-05

July 14, 2005

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City
Metro Manila

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
SSS Building
East Avenue, Quezon City

ATTENTION: MR. WINSTON M. GARCIA
President & General Manager
Government Service Insurance System

MS. CORAZON S. DE LA PAZ
President & General Manager
Social Security System

Gentlemen:

We write in response to your joint letter dated July 12, 2005, stating your "vehement objection to any attempt to reset or postpone the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of the Corporation."

Please rest assured that we have no intention or any plan whatsoever to reset or postpone the Annual Stockholders' Meeting. As planned, the Bank's Annual Stockholders' Meeting shall be held on July 19, 2005, at the designated time and venue indicated in the notice sent out for the purpose to all stockholders.

We do not know from which quarters you have heard the "report" to the contrary. It would seem that you have been fed wrong information in this regard. It is unfortunate that recently, there have been a series of inaccurate published stories which are mainly intended to put the Bank's Chairman of the Board and Corporate Secretary in the worst possible light and cause prejudice to the institution. We hope that you will not dignify them.

Thus said, we wish to assure you of the Board of Directors' steadfast commitment to uphold the paramount interest of the Bank and to reassure you that the rights of all stockholders are duly respected at all times.

We trust that the foregoing have sufficiently addressed your concerns.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

ANTONIO L. GO
Chairman

Nilo T. Divina
NILO T. DIVINA
Executive Vice President &
Corporate Secretary

Copy furnished:

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills,
Mandaluyong City, Philippines

Attention: MS. FE BARIN
Chairman

ATTY. JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director, Corporation Finance Department

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

Attention: ATTY. PAMELA QUIZON-LABAYEN
Disclosure Department

MWCI to tap new water sources

By Christine A. Gaylican

EAST zone concessionaire Manila Water Company Inc. (MWCI) plans to tap new water sources to meet the growing demand of its customers.

"We are now studying how we could make use of water from the river systems near our concession area, such as the Montalban River and Laguna de Bay," MWCI president Antonino T. Aquino told the INQUIRER.

Aquino said that these river systems could generate an additional 5-10 million liters of water a day.

"This is being studied carefully because we would not want to disturb the marine ecosystem of these rivers," said Aquino.

Aquino said the two water concessionaires were faced with a water shortage by as early as 2007 as the limited supply from Angat Dam is barely enough to meet the requirements of Metro Manila and nearby cities.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 14, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	6,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32	33	31	32	537,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	49	48	49	782,700
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.52	1,350,000
Equitable PCI Bank, Inc.	50	50.5	50	50.5	165,500
International Exch. Bank	18.75	19	18.75	18.75	93,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27.5	27.5	652,200
Philippine National Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	5,000
Phil. Savings Bank	32	32	32	32	2,700
Security Bank Corp.	26	26	26	26	15,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29.5	29	29.5	28,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	70,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	240	270	240	270	92,540
Manulife Financial Corp.	2785	2785	2785	2785	1,020
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	174,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	136	136	136	136	50
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1950	1960	1950	1960	730
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	12	11.5	12	10,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	610,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	805	820	805	820	16,110
Ipeople Inc.	3.7	3.95	3.7	3.95	34,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.046	0.045	0.046	1,400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	6,300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2	2	1.9	1.9	21,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.6	2.65	2.55	2.65	2,032,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1565	1575	1540	1540	418,180
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	4,700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	35,600
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.25	313,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	2,189,000
Petron Corp.	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.95	2,618,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	24,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	160,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	250,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	630,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.85	3	2.85	2.9	305,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	30	29.5	30	8,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	30	31	30	31	366,100
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	510,000
San Miguel Corp. A	60.5	61	60.5	61	133,300
San Miguel Corp. B	92.5	94.5	92.5	94	142,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	58,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	670,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Alok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5	6	5	5	9,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	12,000,000
Ayala Corp.	285	297.5	285	295	206,880
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.75	4.9	4.75	4.9	984,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	7,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	1,406,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	4,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.6	0.52	0.57	1,910,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.68	1.6	1.68	25,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	7,760,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.3	2.34	2.3	2.3	2,163,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	6	6.1	6	6.1	749,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41	41.5	39.5	39.5	804,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,200,000
House of Investments Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	568,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	3,586,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,130,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	12,220,000
SM Investments Corp.	235	235	230	232	278,340
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.145	0.135	0.145	1,580,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	5,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.32	164,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.085	0.09	0.08	0.09	800,000
Prime Gaming Phils., Inc.	28	44	28	44	469,100
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	8	8	8	8	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.93	0.95	0.92	0.92	7,210,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	2,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	310,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	11.5	12	11.5	11.5	303,700
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	9,421,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	70,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.85	2,480,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	680,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.19	0.205	4,540,000
Empire East Land Inc	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	3,080,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.34	1.36	5,880,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	820,000
SM Development Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	19,043,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	113,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	15,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,040,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	2,240,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	44,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	1,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	34,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.92	0.92	0.88	0.88	2,930,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	29	28.5	28.5	85,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	51,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	36,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	2,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	3,700,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	5,847,240	196,025,405.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	93,002,770	1,052,890,335.00
PRO	46,024,000	214,380,610.00
Mining	200,012,500	7,843,550.00
OIL	93,752,000	1,075,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	438,638,510	1,472,215,700.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	551.38	UP 16.24
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,973.08	UP 30.83
PRO	663.65	UP 7.05
Mining	2,490.93	DOWN 0.94
OIL	2.46	UP 0.21
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,147.97	UP 10.90
Composite	1,879.46	UP 25.42

NO. OF ADVANCES: 55, NO. OF DECLINES: 15, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 33, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 103, NO. OF TRADES: 2,771

DISCLOSURES

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. disclosed that from June 20 to July 8, 33,410 shares were exercised and fully paid for under its stock option plan. The number of treasury shares is now 28.72 million.

***

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. vice president Alfredo Carrera sold 1,000 shares on July 8 at P1,590.

***

SM Investments Corp. announced the resignation of Hans Sy as director.

***

KEPPEL Philippines Properties Inc. disclosed that assistant corporate secretary Maria Cristina Hernandez has no direct or indirect ownership of its securities.

***

ALLIANCE Global Group Inc. approved the declaration of a cash dividend equivalent to P154.36 million in favor of its stockholders of record as of July 27. ***Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

July 14, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.827267	1.000000	56.1240
Japan	Yen	0.007397	0.008942	0.5019
United Kingdom	Pound	1.459298	1.764000	99.0027
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106342	0.128546	7.2145
Switzerland	Franc	0.641193	0.775074	43.5003
Canada	Dollar	0.685390	0.828500	46.4987
Singapore	Dollar	0.489044	0.591156	33.1780
Australia	Dollar	0.618702	0.747887	41.9744
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.194458	2.652661	148.8779
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220605	0.266667	14.9664
Brunei	Dollar	0.487603	0.589414	33.0803
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019744	0.023867	1.3395
UAE	Dirham	0.225242	0.272272	15.2810
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.208800	67.8427
Argentina	Peso	0.288498	0.348736	19.5725
Brazil	Real	0.352478	0.426076	23.9131
Denmark	Kroner	0.134046	0.162035	9.0941
India	Rupee	0.019035	0.023010	1.2914
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217713	0.263172	14.7703
Mexico	New Peso	0.077601	0.093804	5.2647
New Zealand	Dollar	0.554543	0.670331	37.6217
Norway	Kroner	0.126548	0.152971	8.5853
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013904	0.016807	0.9433
South Africa	Rand	0.124214	0.150150	8.4270
Korea	Won	0.000797	0.000964	0.0541
Sweden	Kroner	0.106979	0.129316	7.2577
Syria	Pound	0.015936	0.019264	1.0812
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025950	0.031368	1.7605
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000386	0.000466	0.0262

Women learn to trim, clip, dye their way to fortune

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CORPORATE CITIZEN

THE SPLASH group of companies, maker of personal care brands Extraderm, Maxipeel and Skinwhite, traces its roots to the Hortaleza Vaciador chain, which grew because of the unwavering support of neighborhood salons and hordes of manicuristas.

The Splash group has since evolved into a billion-peso cosmetics and personal care company—the only Filipino company to compete head-on with multinational cosmetics companies—but it has not forgotten its beginnings.

Thus, the group launched the "Ganda Mo, Hanapbuhay Ko" livelihood program in 1997 to help the underprivileged, especially unemployed women, earn extra by allowing them to take up a basic cosmetology course.

The free course provided by Splash Foundation is broken down into six half-day sessions, covering lectures on techniques and hands-on training in hair cutting, hair winding, coloring, hot oil treatment, manicure, pedicure and foot spa.

Splash Foundation managing director Maurice P. Ligot told the INQUIRER that at the end of the training program, participants are given a certificate and a starter kit to encourage them to provide home service and enable them to become self-reliant.

This fulfills Splash Foundation's mission to promote self-reliance, productivity and local entrepreneurship through income-generating programs.

'Free cut'

The participants "pay" for their free lessons by giving free hair cuts to children of a public school of their choice through the "Libreng Gupit" program.

Their training does not end when they receive their certificates.

Ligot said Splash checks up on the performance and progress of the participants two months after they complete their training.

Splash proudly says that since the program started in 1997—the same year that the foundation was organized—over 4,000 women have finished the course.

Eight out of ten graduates now earn from home services. About 10 percent are employed by big salons here and abroad, while others have put up their own small salons.

"When we started the livelihood course on basic cosmetology in 1997, we only had one scheduled training a month," Ligot said. "Now, because of the many requests we receive, we now schedule five trainings done simultaneously in different areas or barangays."

It is not just the participants who benefit from the livelihood programs. Splash does, too, as it opens up new markets for Splash products and strengthens the relationship between Splash and its customers.

Competitive edge

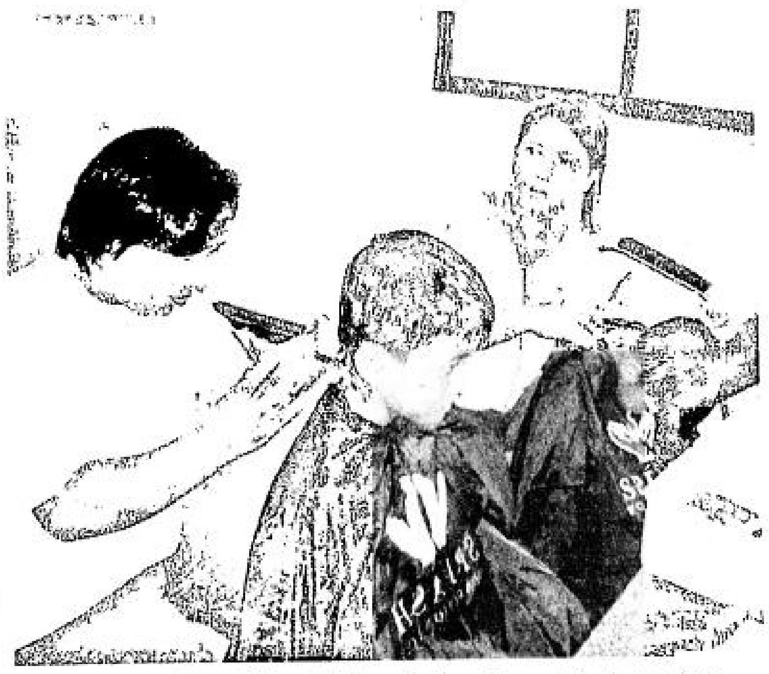
"Doing corporate social responsibility also targets the community, or the bottom of the pyramid, who happens to be our product users," Ligot said. "Making lasting and good programs that improve their lives help in building our name and giving us a competitive edge over the others."

Aside from the livelihood program, Splash Foundation devotes its resources to the "Lunas Sakit" program, where babies and children confined at the East Avenue Medical Center and Valenzuela General Hospital are given prescribed medicine from the day of referral to the day of discharge, ranging from two weeks to a month.

Complementing "Lunas Sakit" is the "Katawan Pangalagaan" program that covers free medical, dental and surgical missions, including medicine and supplemental feeding, to children of communities in Valenzuela and Novaliches.

Splash also provides scholarships to BS Pharmacy students, and encourages entrepreneurship among the youth by enrolling some students at the Don Bosco Technical Institute for their BS Entrepreneurship Management Course.

Ligot said Splash Foundation had set up the SFI Social Development Center in Valenzuela City to show the group's commitment to its various programs.



"GANDA Mo, Hanapbuhay Ko" graduates give public elementary school students a haircut

Grand plans

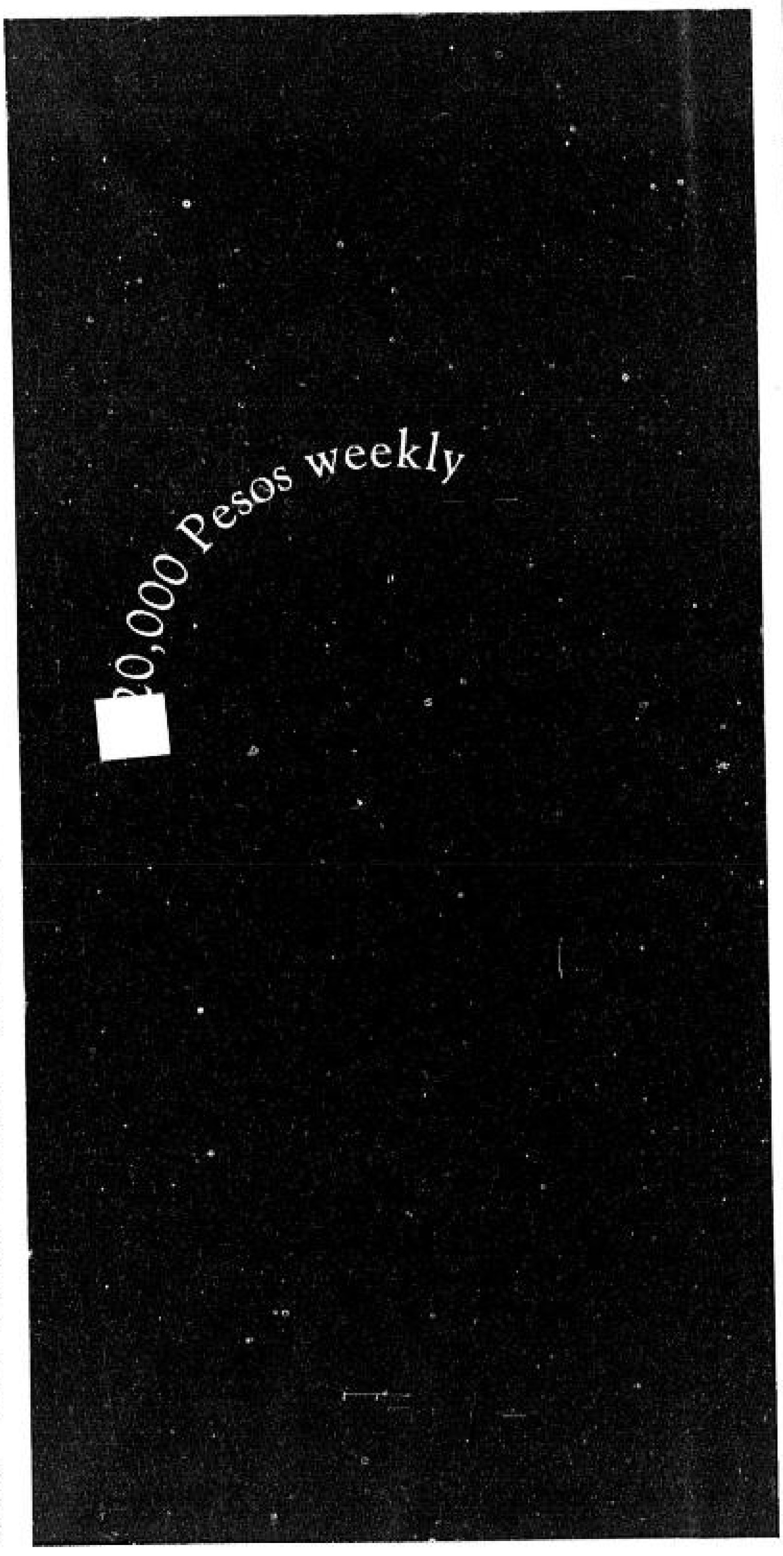
The SFI Center houses state-of-the art facilities and equipment designed for livelihood skills development. It also has a classroom for children enrolled in Splash Foundation's Basic Literacy Program, including a library and computers for free use of students in the community.

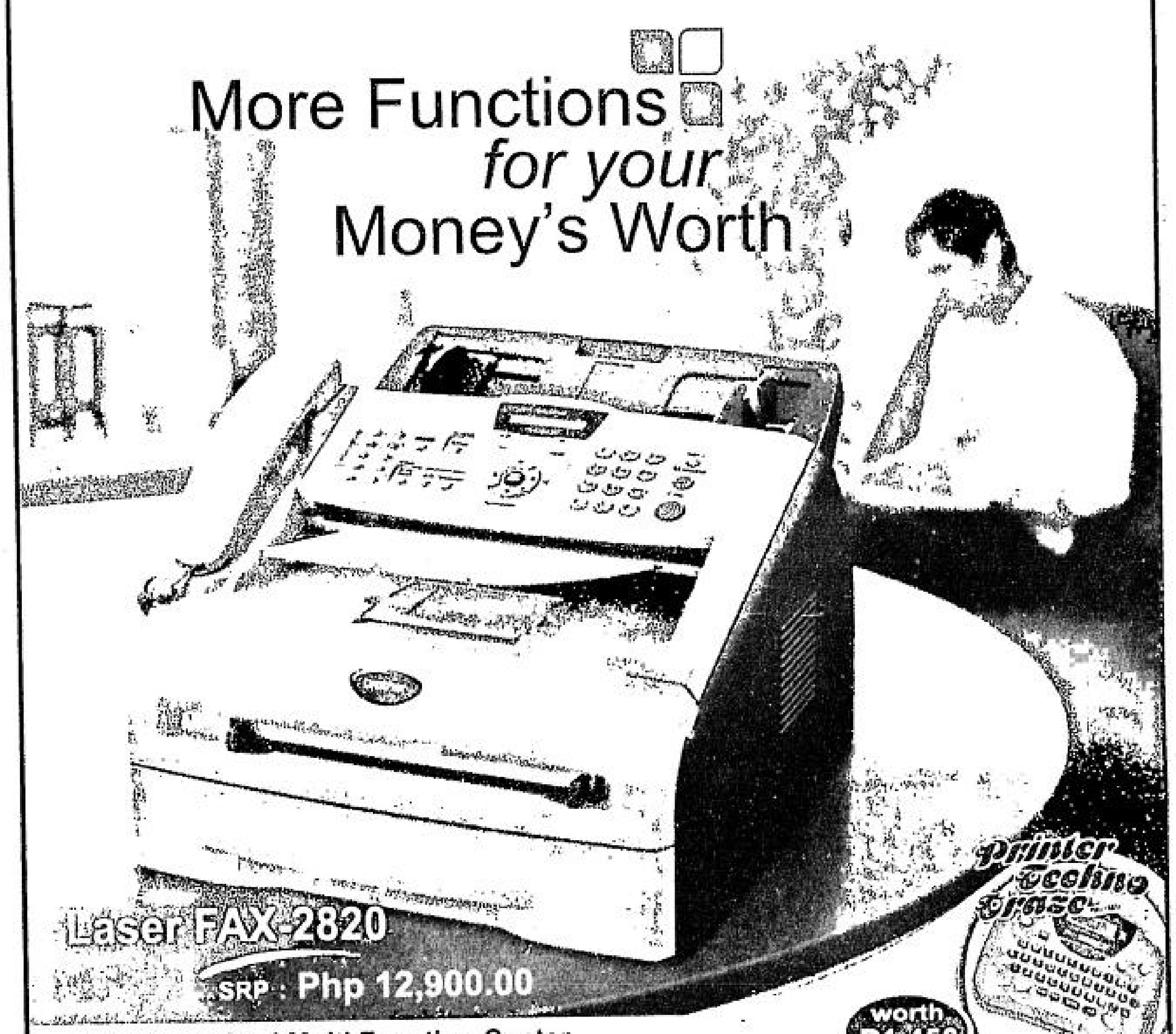
It also has rooms for free clinics and other barangay programs.

For its effort, Splash Foundation was recognized by the People Power People Movement of former President Corazon C. Aquino as one of 20 organizations giving hope to the Filipino people, and by the Valenzuela Mayor's Office as 2004's Outstanding Corporate Foundation in Valenzuela City.

Ligot said Splash has grand plans for its SFI Center, with more programs to alleviate poverty in the pipeline.

Splash believes that in uplifting the human condition, it gives Philippine society hope for a brighter future.





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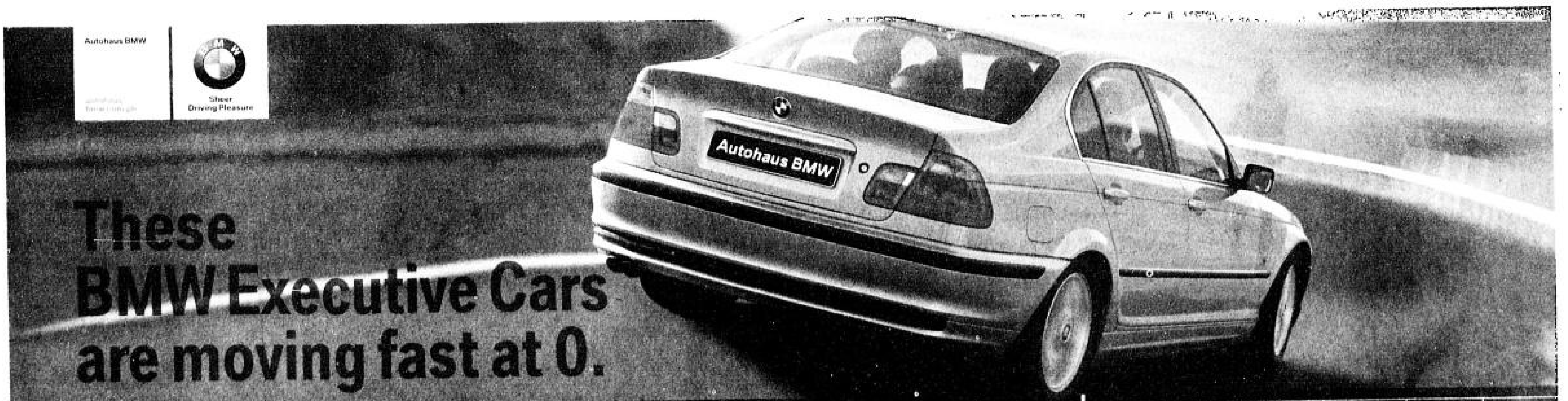

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Model*	Then	Now	Down Payment**	Monthly**	Model*	Then	Now	Down Payment**	Monthly**
BMW 316i Ed. 2004 Sienna Red	P1,795,000	P1,425,000	P427,500	P27,709	BMW 318i M Sport 2005 Black Sapphire	P2,950,000	P2,180,000	P654,000	P42,389
BMW 316i Ed. 2004 Oxford Green	P1795,000	P1,425,000	P427,500	P27,709	BMW 318i M Sport 2005 Titanium Silver	P2,950,000	P2,180,000	P654,000	P42,389
BMW 318i Ed. [illegible]	P2,185,000	P1,800,000	P540,000	P35,000	BMW 325i Exec. [illegible]	P3,250,000	P2,200,000	P660,000	P42,778
BMW 318i Exec. [illegible]	P2,550,000	P1,875,000	P562,500	P36,459	BMW 325i Exec. [illegible]	P3,500,000	P2,480,000	P744,000	P48,223
BMW 318i M Sport [illegible]	P2,750,000	P2,000,000	P600,000	P38,889	BMW 325i Exec. [illegible]	P3,500,000	P2,580,000	P774,000	P50,167

* Other models also available.
** Subject to bank's approval.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-563 Series of 2005

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(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

CONGRATULATIONS to the
GSIS Scholars for School Year 2005-2006

NORTHERN LUZON		
Arianne Dominique T. Ulep	BS Business Economics	UP Diliman, QC
Joemylou A Tattao	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	St. Louis University
Salvador S. Reyes Jr.	BS Computer Science	Ateneo de Manila
Pauline Nikka A. Corsino	Mass Communications	UP Baguio
Jay-R A. Agbayani	Computer Engineering	UP Diliman, QC
CENTRAL LUZON		
Jonathan B. Dela Vina	BS Elec. Engineering	UP Los Baños
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Francis Brylle G. Sinco	BS Statistics	UP Diliman, QC
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SOUTHERN LUZON		
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Jet Lawrence M. Belbes	BS Elec. & Comm.Engineering	UP Diliman, QC
Aaron Marc M. Dimaano	BS Elec. & Comm.Engineering	Ateneo de Manila
Jelaine Angelica R. Ang	BS Elec. & Comm.Engineering	UP Diliman, QC
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Mark Alvin C. Bayag	BS App. Mathematics	UP Iloilo
Sherry Jane A. Enriquez	BS Accountancy	Silliman University
Raphael Angielo D. Castellano	BS Industrial Engineering	UP Diliman, QC
EASTERN VISAYAS		
Theodore James Y. Romo	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	University of San Carlos
Andruen E. Sanico	Applied Physics w/ Applied Computer System	Ateneo de Manila
Josephus Anthony C. Bumaat	BS Accountancy	Holy Name Univ.
Reina Zane A. Rizal	BS Mathematics	UP Cebu
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Lorenzo David H. Jalotjot	AB Economics	Ateneo de Davao
Gwyn Ivan S. Cosmod	BS Civil Engineering	UP Los Baños
Gwyn Ann Marie S. Ebol	Mass Communications	UP Diliman, QC
CAGAYAN DE ORO		
Al Brian R. Guingguing	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Mindanao Polytechnic State College
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John Alexander S. Belderol	BS Accountancy	UP Diliman, QC
Remrick E. Patagan	BS Economics	UP Diliman, QC
ZAMBOANGA		
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Patrick Joseph L. Dela Cruz	BS Accountancy	Ateneo de Zamboanga
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)		
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Jonrey B. Blando	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Ateneo de Manila
Richelle Anne A. Lansang	BS Bus. Administration	UP Diliman, QC
Reynald C. Buyao	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	UP Diliman, QC
Jerome Christopher A. Geronimo	BS Computer Science	UP Manila
Rosarie Z. Zamora	BSBA Accountancy	UP Diliman, QC
Kristine Marie S. Mateo	BS Statistics	UP Diliman, QC
Peter Julian A. Cayton	BS Statistics	UP Diliman, QC
Samuel Sebastian G. Salinda	BS Mgt. Engineering	Ateneo de Manila
Tarhata Clio Shari M. Rico	Mass Communications	UP Diliman, QC
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Program Outline
3.30 - 15.00 Driving Your Sales Force Productivity I
The sales landscape is changing. No longer is it just a case of selecting, training and motivating a sales team. The role of the sales organization is rapidly changing and sales force management is now, more than ever, increasingly instrumental in overall company success. The focus on segmentation, strategy, people and systems are the keys to boost sales performance in any organizations.
15.00 - 15.30 Tea / Coffee Break
15.30 - 16.30 Driving Your Sales Force Productivity II
Boosting sales force productivity is the science of success. Learn what drives the efficiency and effectiveness of a sales force. Find out ways to increase your overall sales performance by balancing the need for operational efficiency and result-oriented effectiveness.
16.30 - 17.00 The 12 Fundamental Sales Management Truths
Be an effective sales manager by learning the 12 down-to-earth fundamental truths of sales management which can help you build a powerful and high-performing sales team in your organization.

How Will You Benefit
1. Understand How the Sales Landscape is Shifting
2. How to Turn your Salesforce Organization into a Profit Engine
3. How to Build and Grow a High Performance Salesforce
4. How to Increase Sales Efficiency and Effectiveness through Salesforce Productivity Drivers
5. How to Leverage Sales Process Measurement and Sales Performance
6. How to Unleash Sales Recruiting, Sales Training, Sales Coaching, and Sales Management techniques to increase Sales Productivity
7. How to be an Effective Sales Manager which can help you Build a High-Performing Sales Team in your Sales Organization

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A STATEMENT TO OUR LEADERS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES

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  Cecilia P. Aribuabo - *Laoag City*
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Schools First *means* Students First

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DepED
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A STATEMENT TO OUR LEADERS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES

Quality Education must be a Path out of this Crisis.

We believe that quality education must be a path out of this crisis. Genuine democracies the world over succeed only where:

- Teaching is valued by society as a time-honored profession;
- Education is an endeavor where the whole community is involved; and
- Education system is non-partisan and insulated from politics.

The political events of these times are important to the future of the country. The running of the schools and education for all, especially our young children, however, are concerns of the present.

General Statement to the Public

The Department has put in place reforms to improve the quality of education over the past three years. These include **academic reforms:**

- New grading system
- Bridge program to prepare elementary graduates for high school
- *Every Child a Reader* program
- English, Science and Math proficiency
- Revisions to the Basic Education Curriculum
- Textbook policy (including a new, more stringent textbook content evaluation process); and
- Expansion of the *Madrasah* education system for young Muslim Filipinos
- Alternative Learning System for out-of-school children, youth and adults

and **financial management reforms:**

- Decentralization of the payroll system to the regions
- Clean-up of the automatic payroll deduction system (APDS) to protect teachers from usurious lenders
- Professionalization of the Department's provident fund for teachers and non-teaching personnel
- Tightening of qualification standards in the hiring of teachers and principals
- Direct-release system and the electronic NGAS (New Government Accounting System)
- Government procurement reforms (school buildings, furniture, textbooks, instructional materials)

Over the past three years, our Department has worked hard to create and maintain a corruption-free environment with emphasis on cleaning up anomalies in hiring, procurement and finance. We are today a professionally-managed organization of educators.

Started under Secretary Edilberto C. de Jesus as the *12-Point Agenda* (later the *Education Roadmap*), Secretary Florencio B. Abad expanded and refined these reforms as the *Schools First Initiative*.

To all our publics, **the Department will stay the course with the *Schools First Initiative*** that puts in place the plans for the decentralization of education down to the schools and to involve local school boards, parents and communities in taking responsibility and ownership for the achievement and performance of students under their watch.

Despite the ongoing political developments, the career professionals in the field down to our school heads and teachers assure parents that the delivery of quality education through our schools and alternative learning systems will stay focused on the *Schools First Initiative*. We are committed to the education of our children.

To our Leaders

Stay focused on education reforms. We need a peaceful, orderly and quick resolution to this crisis to help us focus on the task-at-hand for ourselves (quality education) and for the nation (growth and stability). Support the education reforms by significantly increasing the necessary resources to allow us to deliver on these.

To our Teachers

Stay focused on teaching. We encourage school discussion of issues to promote better understanding of the situation. But we will not tolerate mass actions that disrupt our schools. Legitimate issues should be handled within available mechanisms. We assure our teachers that the Department is working to raise the necessary resources for education, including improving teacher welfare and a salary increase.

To our Parents

Be actively involved in your children's education. Get involved with your school. This period provides us with an opportunity to clarify and affirm the values important to our society, such as truth, justice, accountability, citizenship and love of country.

A Statement to All

Education is important to the future of this country. **Let us spend more on public education.** To our leaders, both national and local, as well as our major publics – parents, local business sector and our immediate communities – this is what we must do:

1. Raise the annual budget of the Department of Education by at least 8-9% per year over the next five years. This yearly increase of P9-10 Billion will allow us to catch up with the shortages and to provide quality inputs to keep our children engaged in the school system.

2. Focus the Special Education Fund (SEF) of local governments solely on basic education, including the education for out-of-school children, youth and adults, and on our schools. Let us minimize the use of the SEF on non-basic-education-related matters.

3. Ensure that the Department of Public Works and Highways turns over only completely-constructed school buildings. Local leaders must make sure that DPWH-constructed school buildings are complete and to specifications.

4. Depoliticize education policy. Let us not be afraid to provide an additional year of education to better prepare our children for their future. Let only properly trained pre-school teachers teach pre-school. Let us expand high school to better prepare our graduates for university or to gain more competitive skills needed for the world of work. Let us support electoral reforms that will free teachers from mandatory poll duties.

The education of our children is too important to leave to Government alone. All of us have a collective responsibility to make our education system perform. We ask all Filipinos to join us in this undertaking.

RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary
Officer-in-Charge

FE A. HIDALGO
Undersecretary
Programs & Projects

JUAN MIGUEL LUZ
Undersecretary
Finance & Administration

MANAROS BORANSING
Special Assistant to the Secretary
(with rank of Undersecretary)

TEODORO CATINDIG
Assistant Secretary
Programs

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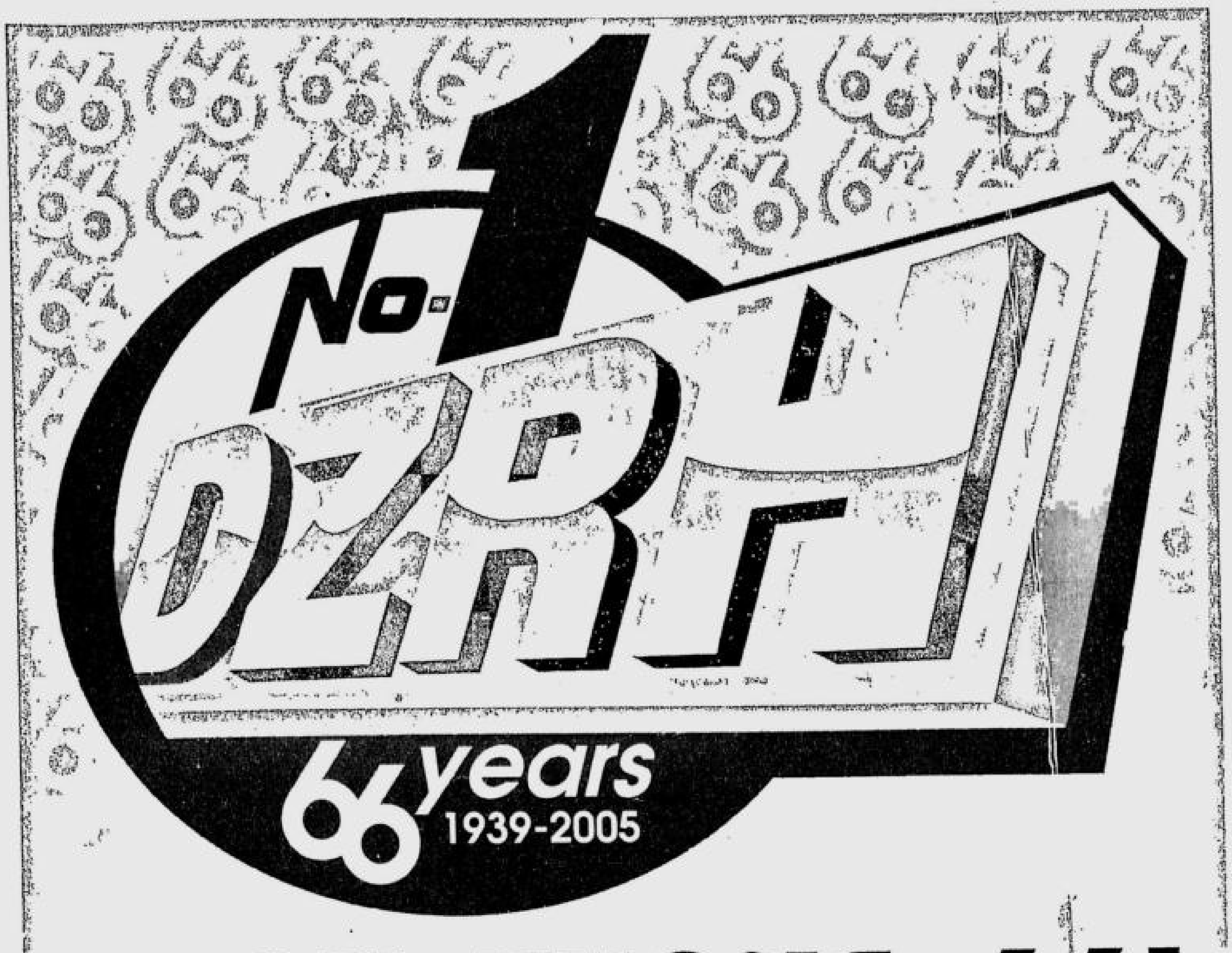
Manila, Philippines
15 July 2005

Schools First means Students First



DZRH TURNS 66!

Today, we at DZRH celebrate our 66th anniversary.

What began as a small radio station broadcasting out of a single booth in Escolta back in June 15,1939, has become the leading AM network in the country.

For DZRH, the past 66 years has been a chronicle of 'firsts.' At the break of dawn on Dec. 8, 1941, we were the first media organization to report to the Filipino people that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. We were the only independent news bureau that remained on air when Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, commander of the United States Armed Forces in the Far East, surrendered to the Japanese imperial army.

After Liberation in 1945, we covered the birth of the second Philippine Republic and in 1949 we became the first radio station to be heard across the country from the island of Basco down to Jolo.

Soon after DZRH pioneered the first ever mobile broadcast in the country emanating from the "Coriana", the yacht of former-President Elpidio Quirino.

As the country embraced post-war prosperity during the 50's and the 60's, DZRH carved its place in the local broadcasting industry not only as a reliable source of information but also as the Mecca of radio drama bringing to the airwaves tales of adventure, romance, and reverie.

In the decades that followed, DZRH has been first on the scene covering every major political development – the bombing of Plaza Miranda in '72, the EDSA People's Power Revolution of '86, the numerous coups in the late 80's , the elections over the past two decades, and the crises that have rocked the nation in recent years.

In 1996, DZRH embarked on yet another pioneering effort with the vision of "One Nation. One Station." By strategically positioning 20 relay stations in key provincial cities all over the country, DZRH expanded its footprint to cover an unprecedented 97 percent of the Philippine archipelago. Today, DZRH remains the only station that is on 24-hour nationwide simulcast via satellite.

On this momentous occasion, we realize that there is indeed so much to be thankful for. Our celebration will never be complete without expressing our most heartfelt gratitude to the advertisers and listeners who have supported us through the decades.

Thank you for making DZRH the number one AM station in the latest coincidental radio survey of the Radio Research Council for Metro Manila and Expanded Metro Manila. Thank you for making DZRH a consistently top-rating station in virtually all of the key provincial cities all over the Philippines.

We at DZRH know only too well that the greatest thanks we can give to our advertisers and listeners is to continue delivering our brand of balanced programming.

As we have been doing for all these years, we will continue to bring to our audiences the latest developments in the Philippine political, economic, and social landscape. We will continue to report the news when it happens, as it happens, adhering closely to the tenets of fair, accurate, and honest broadcasting. We will continue to provide in-depth analyses of the news through balanced and responsible commentaries.

Above all these, we at DZRH reaffirm our commitment to being the leading full-service radio station in the country by going beyond traditional radio broadcasting. As the flagship station of the Manila Broadcasting Company we will continue to organize and promote large-scale events that provide our corporate clients unparalleled advertising values while also giving our audiences a truly interactive listening experience.

For us, the men and women of DZRH, this anniversary serves as an opportunity to further strengthen our commitment to lead the radio industry and serve the nation. Today, the tag that uniquely identifies us on the airwaves takes on renewed significance – ***DZRH: Kaunaunahan sa Pilipinas***

MESSAGE

My heartfelt congratulations to the men and women of DZRH on the occasion of your 66th anniversary.

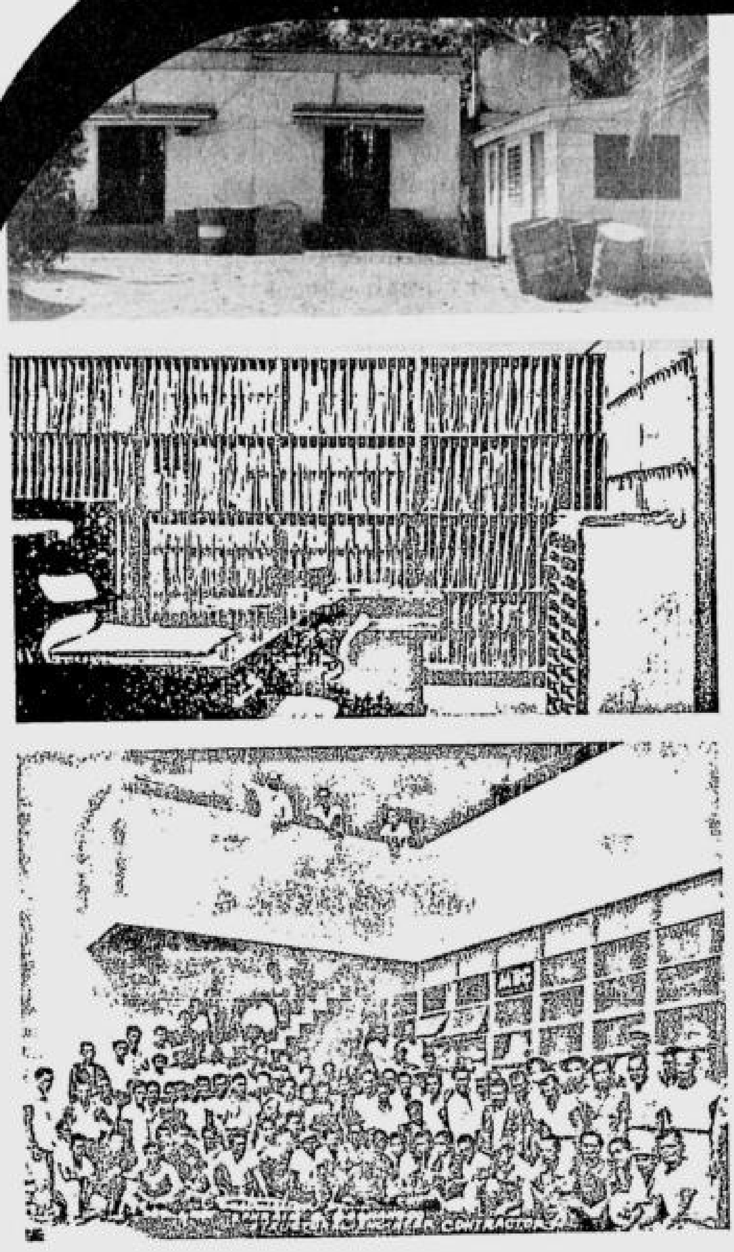
DZRH, the flagship station of the Manila Broadcasting Company, has been a witness to the most important developments that have shaped the history of the Philippines. Through all these years, DZRH has earned a well-deserved reputation for its brand of fair, balanced, and responsible broadcasting.

May this milestone inspire all of you to uphold the tradition of broadcasting excellence that Filipinos have come to expect from DZRH. I commend all of you in your dedication and your contribution towards nation-building.

More power and MABUHAY!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

THEN...



An early radio transmitter facility, the old audio library, and a building that used to house the offices of the Manila Broadcasting Company– these photographs are a reminder of the humble beginnings of DZRH.

...AND NOW

Today, the state-of-the-art broadcasting facilities of DZRH are at the MBC Building, Sotto. St., CCP Complex, Pasay City.

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MANIFESTO FOR PEACE AND UNITY THROUGH THE RULE OF LAW

Political maturity has finally come to the Filipino people. The events of last week were a crucible test of their understanding of the two lessons they learned in EDSA. Confronted with the choices of once more jumping the gun for a quick way out of the political bind on the one hand, and the arduous yet constitutional process on the other, they chose the latter.

Political observers are still pondering the people's inaction during the so-called "tipping point." They were looking too far in the horizon looking for answers, when the answer is staring them in the eye.

By shunning the streets where the proponents of unconstitutional process have lured them with a promise of better life, the Filipino people have made and expressed their choice loud and clear. Rather than blindly exercising their sovereign will in the streets, they want the truth about the allegations on the presidency uncovered through the constitutional process.

We, the Representatives and Mayors of Metro Manila, heed that voice. As their representatives in Congress and in the local governments, we cannot speak contrary to what they have expressed.

We stand by the people in protecting the Constitution and the presidency. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, as the duly elected president, is protected by the Constitution.

We stand by the people in advocating the rule of law as enshrined in the Constitution and as a fundamental principle of governance in a democracy. We are a government of laws and not of men.

The Constitution is not without a means to guard against those who thwart the sovereign will of the people. Let us allow the constitutional process a chance to operate. Let us not pass judgment in the streets while passion consumes us. Anarchy is the rule of the mob we must reject this. Let the rule of law prevail.

The uncertainty created by the political noise is driving investors away. Saddled by the continuously sliding currency and spiraling prices, the poor bear the brunt of the fractious infighting of the politically mighty. Unless we put a stop to the current divisive efforts, history will judge us for betraying the people's trust.

Now is the time to look after the people's welfare. Now is the time to heal the wounds of our suffering nation. Now is the time to come together to pray for peace and unity in our land.

Mayor **IMELDA T. AGUILAR**
Las Piñas

Mayor **FELICIANO R. BELMONTE**
Quezon City

Mayor **ROSENDO T. CAPCO**
Pateros

Mayor **VICENTE P. EUSEBIO**
Pasig

Mayor **JAIME R. FRESNEDI**
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SATURDAY • JULY 16, 2005 • 3:00 PM • QUIRINO GRANDSTAND

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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TV GUIDE

[illegible]

HOLLYWOOD DREAM
Hosted by Eric Quizon

THE DREAM BEGINS JULY 17! The much-talked-about reality show "Hollywood Dream" will finally begin! Find out who will get a chance to fly to New York and Los Angeles, meet Hollywood producers and casting directors, get a Screen Actors Guild card, appear on "As the World Turns" and land a role in 2 movies being produced in Hollywood!

SUNDAY 9:00 PM

ABC the tayo

ClickTheCity.com

[illegible]

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Environmental Documentary	Value Vision			Teledyaryo	Value Vision		GSIS Member's Hour		Original Sin Documentary		Teledyaryo		Network Forum		Paco Park Presents			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose	Oh! Feel Young	24			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Mutya 6/10: The Real Story		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Flame Of Recca	Full House	24 Oras		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo		Attic Cat	Extra Challenge	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Krusada Kontra Krimen		The Insider	NBA On RPN					The OC		Newswatch Now	Tough Crowd		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Shakey's V-League				TM Phil 9-Ball			IBC News Tonite	GMA The Working President	
SBN 21		Morph TV		Shepherds Voice		SBN Sing Along		Powerline	Gospel Of The Kingdom			Give Us This Day		Behold		The Kingdom Of Jesus Christ		Evening Devotions	
Studio 23						X-Men Evolution	Spiderman	The Batman	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Get Spotted		MTV Classic (Ver 2)		ITVMN: They Wanted A Famous Face	MTV Divas		Newlyweds	Wanna Come In	Faking the Video	Laguna Beach	On Board at MTV	MTV Screen	VH1: Video Collection	
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Remakes	My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News-	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Solar Sports		TV Shopping		2005 Fivb World Grand Prix				GWS					Sports Desk	WTA '05 Telecom Italia Masters, Rome SFinals				NBA TV Daily	
Sports Plus				Barclays Classic Highlights		Strongman		Golf Hawaii 2004	World Greatest Auto Show		The Search TV	Monster Jam		FMX		Tour De France	Inside the PGA	John Deere Classic Highlights	
Cinemax						Dead Silence (5:15PM)				Star Trek Nemesis				Keeper Of The City			A Few Good Men (10:35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Judging Amy		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B Eye		Judging Amy					Wife Swap (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B Eye
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Moms On Strike			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Muppet Treasure Island	
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Stormproof: Saving Our Crumbling Coastlines		Monster Garage		American Chopper		Wolf Battlefields		Extraordinary Experiences: We Built This City: London		Crime Night	
National Geographic		Pharaoh's Week		Battle Of The X-Planes				Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Day Of The Jackal		Wild Dogs Biting Back	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Static Shock	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	Zoids Fusers	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Time Squad	Thundercats	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		It's Good To Be	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Sylvia	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		Stupid Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Angel		Friends	Stupid Behavior Caught On Tape
AXN		Ravager				Worst Case Scenario		The Associates (Season II)		Alias (Season III)		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	Andromeda (Season IV)		The Glass House		Worst Case Scenario	
JackTV	The Sib Show	Samurai Jack	The Batman	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		Ants In The Pants					
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO	The Black Marble (2:35PM)				Nat'l Lampoon's Christmas Vacation 2: Cousin Eddie's Island Adventure			Doctor Detroit (5:55PM)			Avenging Angelo (7:25PM)			Wolf				Bad Boys II	
Star Movies			The Gingerbread Man (3:25PM)				Rocky III (5:20PM)			Shanghai Knights				Daredevil				Bulletproof Monk (10:50PM)	
Cinema One		Beloved: Lumimot Man Ikaw				Mundo Man Ay Magunaw				Hey Babe				Sa Diyos Lang Ako Susuko				Paksabi Na Lang Na Mahal Ko Siya	
EWTN	Does The Church Still Teach That	Angelus (3:15PM)	Stations Of The Cross	Image Of God	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Search And Rescue	Your Call	EWTN Gallery	Life on The Rock Encore		Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Defending Life	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	Backstage	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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- CFOs and controllers
- Marketing managers and sales managers
- Supervisors and team leaders

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- Food and beverage
- Health care and pharmaceuticals
- Consumer goods
- Direct marketing
- Hotline services

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3. How to select the right location for your call center
4. Designing facilities that create a fun and productive environment
5. Managing operations in a multi-site environment
6. Effective forecasting and scheduling
7. Improving service through quality and performance management
8. Managing small-sized and medium-sized call centers

HR TRACK

1. Attracting great talent in a hyper-competitive job market
2. Keeping good people and preventing high turnover
3. Succession planning and career progression
4. Effective training for agents and supervisors
5. Improving productivity
6. Developing a positive work culture to drive performance
7. Managing people in an ever-changing organization
8. Outsourcing HR services

IT TRACK

1. Managing an IT infrastructure library
2. Evaluating the benefits and costs of IP-based systems
3. Maximizing CRM system
4. Disaster recovery and business continuity in a call center
5. Using a unified technology solution to improve customer service environment
6. Making disparate systems work together
7. Analyzing the advantages of workforce automation
8. Emerging technologies for contact centers

** Topics are subject to change.*

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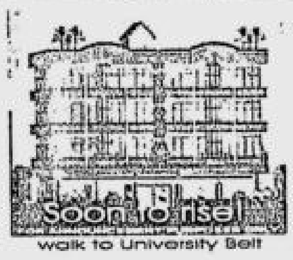

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BNEW studio PROJ.2 4342604 / 0919-2876641

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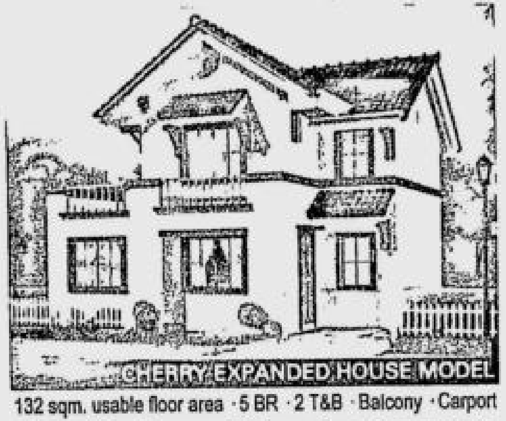

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UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
Asset Management and Disposition Division
Hotline No. 8119797

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QUEZON CITY

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LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Cagayan II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following materials and equipment

1. Digital Protection Relay (Areva, Micom-P122, 120vDC or equivalent)
2. Digital Protection Relay (Areva, Micom-P123, 120vDC or equivalent)
3. Annunciator/Tripping Panel
4. Commissioning of 5-MVA Power Transformer, Protective Devices and Accessories of Zitanga, Ballesteros

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1. Accreditation requirements: (for submission to Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)

a) Company Profile
b) Business Registration
c) Business Permit
d) BIR/VAT Certificate
e) Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
f) List of Clients for a period of 3 years if applicable

2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bidding conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or, losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline of submission of requirements – July 28, 2005.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI – July 15 & 22, 2005)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46 LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342 QUEZON CITY 3730239-40 CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500

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1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 6959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8970490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6567685

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Migrating to Canada or Australia, please visit www.b4landing.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that Cad. Lot No.1519 with area of 1,011sq.m. and Covered by Declaration of Real Property no.01640,Cad Lot No. 1447 with an area of 317sq.m. and covered by Declaration Of Real Property No. 01641,Cad Lot No. 01167-B with an area of 17,527 sq.m. and covered by Declaration of Real Property 01350 and a one Third (1/3)portion of Cad Lot No.1144,1431 and 1432,Cad 285 Carmona cadastre with an area of 15,263 sq.m. and covered by Declaration of Real Property No. 01631 all of Carmona,Cavite was EXTRAJUDICIAL settled among Heirs of late ELENA MAULANIN MANGUIT per Doc. No. 34,Book No. 111 Series of 2005 of Notary Public Virgilio B. Galeon of Binan,Laguna (PDI- July 1,8,15 2005)

Notice is given that the estate of Charles L. Corpuz who died on Dec. 28, 1987 was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc. #956, Page #192, Book #X, Series 2005 Notarized by Atty. Almet S. Mngandog Mangandog of Cainta, Rizal (PDI-July 8, 15 & 22, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that estate of late CONCEPCION RODIL MARTIRES has been adjudicated by her lone heir JORGE RODIL MARTIRES thru affidavit of self adjudication dated July 1, 2005 appearing as Doc. No.295 Page No.160 Book No.XIV Series 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Mario D. Ortiz of Cebu City. PDI-July 8, 15 & 22, 2005

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE JOHNSON REY M. GO HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIRS PER DOC. NO.421 PAGE NO. 84; BOOK NO. II; SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ROMEO G. DE LEON OF QUEZON CITY (PDI-JULY 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that STOCK CERT. NOS. 061735 (4shrs); 085414 (2shrs); 104590 (1shr); 124823 (2shrs); 253063 (1shr) 300746 (1shr) under the name of MIGUEL G. LAGMAN and STOCK CERT. NOS. 168095 (20shrs); 205313 (1shr); 300747 (1shr) under the name MIGUEL GOZO DE STA CRUZ LAGMAN issued by Philippine NAtional Bank has been reported lost. If no contest received new certificates will be issued. (PDI-July 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

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or
722-1155

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on July 27, 2005, 2:00 p.m. 12th Floor, Suite 5, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION		MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
REAL ESTATE				
METRO MANILA				
AM-JA-092	Aguirre Ave. cor. Ortigas St., BF Homes, Parañaque City	956 m², adjoining 2 parcels of residential commercial lots (TCT Nos. 164325 & 164326) with school bldg. & imp.	P	13,500,000.00
AM-MC-93	12th Floor, Avalon Condominium, No. 95 Xavier St. cor. Ortigas Ave. San Juan	170 m², condominium unit (CCT No. 10964-R) with 3-bedroom & 3-T&B	P	5,100,000.00
BACOLOD				
AM-CP-094	National Road, Brgy. Sum-ag, Bacolod City	6,995 m², adjoining 2 parcels of commercial/residential lots (TCT Nos. T-182764 & T-182766) with ricemill bldg.	P	6,245,400.00
BATAAN				
AM-ED-095	Lot Nos. 13, 16 & 17, Blk. 32, Sta. Monica Homes, Sitio Wiswis, Mariveles	150 m², adjoining 3 parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. 229487 – 229489) with bldg. & imp.	P	384,800.00
AM-ED-096	Lot Nos. 35, 38 & 39, Blk. 31, Sta. Monica Homes, Sitio Wiswis, Mariveles	150 m², adjoining 3 parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. 229505 – 229507) with bldg. & imp.	P	353,000.00
BATANGAS				
AM-ED-097	Diversion Road, Brgy. Alangilan	18,139 m² industrial lot (TCT No. 53085) with bldgs. & imp.	P	39,847,000.00
CAVITE				
DAT-01	Corner Galicia and Valencia Sts., La Residencia de Bacoor, Aniban 1 Bacoor	256 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-108835)	P	1,740,800.00
DAT-02	Ground Floor, Bacoor Business Center, Brgy. Salinas and Habay Bacoor	Condominium unit No. 107 (CCT No. CT-1829)	P	1,183,100.00
AM-CP-098a	Metrogate Subd., Brgy. Lancaan, Dasmariñas	120 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-98735)	P	420,000.00
AM-CP-098b	Metrogate Subd., Brgy. Lancaan, Dasmariñas	120 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-98738)	P	420,000.00
DAVAO				
JTG-006	40 Purok Galignan, Mankilam Road, Tagum City	2,791 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-190125) with bldg. & imp.	P	5,291,200.00
JTG-001	Margarita Rd., Margarita Vill., Bajada Davao City	2,000 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 347769)	P	4,600,000.00
JTG-004	Camelia St., San Pedro Vill., Buhangin, Davao City	1,146 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 347765)	P	3,781,800.00
JTG-007	Cor. Mankilam Road & main entrance road of Villa Patricia, Tagum City	1,791 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-190126)	P	2,686,500.00
JTG-005	China Sea St., Ecoland Subd., Phase 3, Matina, Davao City	525 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 347768)	P	2,362,500.00
AM-JA-099	Purok 1, Padillo Compound, Rizal Ave. Interior, Poblacion Zone II, Digos City	1,122 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-53895) with bldg. & imp.	P	1,508,600.00
PANGASINAN				
AM-CP-100	Pagal District, San Carlos City	11,200 m² adjoining 4 industrial lots (TCT Nos. T-32082 – 32085) with bldg. & imp.	P	12,000,000.00
RIZAL	Bermuda Heights Subd., Bos. San Ibayo and San Isidro, Antipolo City	Subdivision lots:		
AM-PY-101	Lot – 12 Blk – 1	300 m² TCT No. 403154	P	378,000.00
AM-PY-102	5 4	337 m² TCT No. 403153	P	377,440.00
AM-PY-103	1 3	336 m² TCT No. 403152	P	376,620.00
AM-PY-104	12 5	322 m² TCT No. 403156	P	380,640.00
AM-PY-105	2 5	277 m² TCT No. 403155	P	329,630.00
AM-PY-106	1 7	287 m² TCT No. 403157	P	321,440.00
CHATTELS				
AM-ED-107	Diversion Road, Brgy. Alangilan, Batangas City	Various machinery and equipment for marble making	P	17,574,200.00
AM-JA-108	Mactan Economic Processing Zone, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu	Oxygen-Nitrogen-Argon Plant machinery & equipment and spare parts supplies & inventories	P	10,000,000.00
AM-ED-109	Trigen Ice Plant, Numancia, Aklan	One (1) unit Mobile Crane, 35 ton capacity 60 ft. lattice boom ISAHI	P	610,000.00
AM-CP-110a	DBP Depot, Doña Severina Subd., Parañaque City	One (1) unit Electric Heating Upsetter, TICHO, Model KT-VH260	P	244,400.00
AM-CP-110b	DBP Depot, Doña Severina Subd., Parañaque City	One (1) unit welding machine, Miller, Model CP-200	P	15,000.00
AM-CP-111	Brgy. Wakas, Tayabas, Quezon	One (1) unit Caterpillar Bulldozer with dismantled parts	P	75,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM; (054) 721-2307 for DAT; and 892-3836 and 818-9511 local 2227 & 2229 for DAT and JTG.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – June 14 & 15, 2005)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024 / Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the **HAULING OF COAL AND OTHER BULK CARGO FROM BATANGAS COAL TERMINAL TO VARIOUS CUSTOMERS (BT04-1257)**. The contract duration is One (1) Year.

The approved budget for this contract is Php101,490,000.00 chargeable against PNOC EC funds.

Eligibility and Bid Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Contracts Assistant (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting **July 18, 2005** upon payment of non-refundable fee of PESOS: One Thousand Five Hundred (PHP1,500.00).

Eligibility of prospective bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary, criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of RA 9184, The government Procurement Reform Act. Only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and to be awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided that the concerned Bidder shall pass the post-qualification process.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **August 1, 2005, 2:00 p.m.** at the PNOC EC Head Office, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Batangas Taguig City.

The Eligibility Requirements and the Bid Documents, composed of two (2) sealed envelope, the first envelope containing the Technical Bid and the second envelope containing the Financial Bid shall be submitted in two (2) sets each to the Bids and Awards Committee not later than **3:00 p.m. of August 15, 2005** at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. **Late Bids shall not be accepted.**

PNOC EC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense in the preparation of the bid. Moreover, PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality in the bid requirements, declare the bidding a failure, or award the contract to the bidder whose offer is the most responsive, lowest calculated bid, and most the advantageous to the Government.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) **JOSE M. EIJANSANTOS**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 15, 2005)

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT
"We Serve"

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the implementation of an annual **CORRECTIVE/ PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES** for all computer equipment and accessories of the Baguio Water District.

Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification and bid documents from the BAC-In House Secretariat, Baguio Water District, BWD Compound, Utility Road, Baguio City after payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00) during office hours from 25 to 27 July 2005.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility and bid documents shall be on 5 August 2005, on or before 12:00 o'clock noon. Opening and evaluation of the eligibility documents shall follow at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

The bidder or his/her authorized representative shall personally submit all requirements insofar as the latter is authorized through a Special Power of Attorney.

The BAC-In house shall determine the eligibility of a prospective bidder using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

The BWD reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract as provided for under the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

For further information, inquiries may be coursed through the BAC-In House Secretariat at the aforementioned address at telephone numbers (074) 444-7245.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MA. LUISA C. TENEDERO**
Chairman, BWD BAC-In House

(PDI–July 15 & 22, 2005)

Training the Trainer

IMPERIAL Consulting Inc, a subsidiary of the European Chamber of Commerce and operates in partnership with the American Management Association, ran a two-day training program last June 1-3. Training venue was the Shangri-la Makati Hotel. Facilitated by AMA's accredited trainer, Rob Schilling. The two-day program was participated by trainers from companies such as Diethelm, Smart, Meralco, SKF Philippines and Zuellig Pharma. To know more information on the products and services offered by Imperial Consulting, Inc. visit www.imperialconsulting.com or call 845.1324 or 759.6680.

Angat Dam closed temporarily today for emergency repairs

ANGAT Dam, from which 97 % of Metro-Manila's water supply comes from, will be temporarily shut down for eight hours beginning 8 a.m., Friday, July 15, to allow emergency repair of a damaged control valve of the Auxiliary Turbine No. 5 bypass.

MWSS Administrator Orly Hondrade said that for the duration of the shutdown, Maynilad Water will use the stored water at Ipo Dam while Manila Water will source its water from La Mesa Dam. Hondrade said that if the repair work is on schedule, the water requirements of both concessionaires and their customers will not be unduly affected. "But it is best for the customers to store water in case the repair work is extended," Hondrade said.

During the eight-hour closure of Angat Dam, engineers from the National Power Corporation, which owns and operates the dam, will inspect the damaged control valve of the Auxiliary Turbine No. 5 bypass and determine the repair that is needed.

Once this is done, Angat Dam operations will return to normal until the time comes for the replacement of the damaged control valve. This will, in turn, necessitate another temporary closure of the dam.

JOB Market Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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Province of Cebu
BAC-GS, PGSO, DepEd Bldg., Cebu Capitol, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 416-6065, 255-1649 / Telefax No. (032) 253-9614
E-mail Address: bac_cpg@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee - Goods & Services, invites interested contractors/lessors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Phase II ANNUAL EQUIPMENT RENTAL intended for its infrastructure programs, as follows:

Equipment Type:

1. Bulldozer, powershift with angling blade and ripper
2. Bulldozer, powershift without angling blade and ripper
3. Backhoe "Crawler type"
4. Backhoe "Wheel type"
5. Air compressor, low pressure, diesel driven skid and/or truck-mounted complete with accessories
6. Air compressor, tandem with jackhammer
7. Air compressor, tandem with rockdrill 1"-2", 5-foot depth capable
8. Welding machine, diesel driven skid and/or mounted (big wheels), 220V with AC outlet welding mask, rod holder 50M cable and 20M ground cable
9. Electric genset, diesel driven skid and/or truck-mounted, 220V complete with accessories (minimum of 10 KVA & up)
10. Vibratory compactor, self-propelled, front-single smooth drum rear-pneumatic tire, 8-10 ton
11. Vibratory compactor, walk behind, 1 ton
12. Forklift
13. Vibratory plate compactor, single direction, 83-104 kg.
14. Vibratory plate compactor tamper, 59-81 kg.
15. Transit mixer, 10 wheeler, 4-5 cu.m.
16. Dump Truck, 10 wheeler, double differential with front drive, 8.0-10 cu.m.
17. Boom Truck, 10 wheeler, double differential, telescopic boom 5 tons - up
18. Dump Truck, standard, 10-wheeler double differential
19. Dump Truck, standard, 6-wheeler, with FD (5-6m)
20. Dump Truck, standard, 6-wheeler, without FD (5-6m)
21. Wheel loader with articulated steering
22. Motor grader
23. Concrete mixer, engine driven, one (1) bagger
24. Boom truck, 1-5T capacity
25. Backhoe loader, wheel type with loader bucket of 1.25 CY and Backhoe Bucket of 0.2 to 0.5 CY 70-90 FWHP

The contract duration is one (1) year. The ceiling rates shall be based on the Association of Carriers and Equipment Lessors (ACEL), Inc. Guidebook, Edition 22, January 2003.

Application forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the BAC-GS Secretariat starting July 15, 2005, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: TWO THOUSAND ONLY (Php 2,000.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on July 26, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the BAC Conference Room, PGSO, DepEd Bldg., Capitol. Cebu City.

Application for Eligibility and sealed bids will be received by the BAC-GS Secretariat not later than 10:00 a.m. of August 9, 2005 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

The Provincial Government of Cebu reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **BERNARD E. CALDERON**
Chairman, BAC-GS

(PDI - July 15 & 23, 2005)

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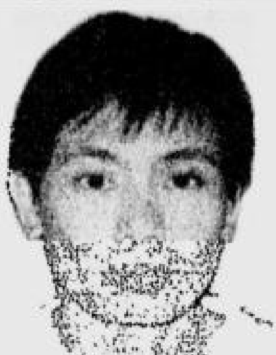
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



EDNA MORA
A.K.A. EDNA HERNANDEZ

Be it known that warrants for the arrest of **EDNA MORA** of Joséfa Village, Tanauan, Batangas, whose picture appears above, have been issued by the Regional Trial Court Fourth Judicial Region Branch 63 of Calauag, Quezon, in Criminal Cases Nos. 3772-C, 3773-C for violation of ESTAFA.

A CASH REWARD will be given for any information leading to her arrest.

Please contact **FERNANDO ELEAZAR, JR. - 042-3048231** and/or **RICHARD ELEAZAR - 0917-8977424.**

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Alien Certificates of Registration (ACRs) and Certificates of Residence for Pre-arranged Employment (CRPEs) of Mr. RICARDO LUIZ BOETTCHER and dependents namely: MS. MARGRID WRASSE BOETTCHER & EDUARDA WRASSE BOETTCHER with c/o address at Philip Morris Philippines, Manufacturing, Inc. 27th Floor Enterprise Center, Tower I, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, issued by the Bureau of Immigration, Manila have been lost.

(PDI–July 8, 15 & 21, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the name A.A. ZAIDE CONSTRUCTION, INC. was amended to EASTERN MULTILINE CORPORATION per S.E.C. REG. NO. 86713

(PDI–July 15, 2005)

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THE
HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

Ret. Judge

Gabriel "Betty" Valle Jr.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on July 12, 2005 at the age of 77.

His loving wife **Laura**; his children **Bogie** and **Sunshine**; in-laws, grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at #4 Burgos St., Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 20, 2005 at the Tuguegarao Memorial Park, Sanctuary of Peace, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the first death anniversary of

ELISA PUNZALAN ALEJANDRO

on July 15, 2005

The holy sacrifice of the Mass
will be offered today in different churches.

Her family requests relatives and friends
to remember her in their prayers.

DEATH NOTICES

RODOLFO R. ROBAS

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 12, 2005 at the age of 79.

His remains lie in state at the Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Ermin Garcia Street, Cubao, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 16, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Nativity of Our Lord Parish.

ALFREDO C. SABIDO SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 11, 2005.

His remains lie state at Gingoog City.

Interment will be on July 16, 2005 at Gingoog Cemetery at 6:00 a.m.

> *"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*
>
> **John 14:6**

The Board of Directors, Management, Staff and Employees
of
Mt. Matutum Medical Center, Incorporated
General Santos City

Condole with the family of

Jose SF. Velasquez, M.D., FPCS, FICS

Chairman of the Board, Mt. Matutum Medical Center, Incorporated
Medical Director, Socsargen County Hospital
Chairman of the Board, Socsargen County Hospital Employees Cooperative

Who peacefully joined his Creator on **12 July 2005** at the age of **65**.
His remains lie in state at **Munda Subdivision, General Santos City**.
We request pious readers and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on **Sunday, 17th of July 2005** at **1:00 p.m.** after the offering of the Holy Mass at **The Forest Lake** (formerly San Carlos Memorial Park) General Santos City.

Our Most Beloved

DR. JOSE SF. VELASQUEZ

of General Santos City

now peacefully in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on 12th of July 2005.

A loving husband to his wife, **Lita Arenas**; his children **Joselito & Lilicel**, **Carmela Catherine**, **Caroline** and **Joel & Tricia**; his grandchildren **Joshua**, **Caitlin**, **Veronica & Michael John**; brother to **Elpren** (†), **Norma** (†), **Fevi** (†) & **Fidel**, **Alma & Carlos**, **Riza & Rudy**, **Victor & Lilia**, **Arturo & Nita** and **Rey & Joey**; brother-in-law to the Arenas family.

His family, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence in General Santos City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 17 July 2005 right after the 12:30 p.m. Mass.

Our beloved father

Engr. REYNALDO A. MENDIOLA

February 9, 1934 – July 13, 2005
Peacefully joined the Lord
on July 13, 2005 at the age of 71.

His loving wife, children, grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be
on Tuesday, July 19, 2005.

LEOCADIO M. MANUEL

Now peacefully in the infinite Grace and Goodness
of the Lord on the 6th of July 2005.

His bereaved sister **Soledad M. Manuel**, brother **Atty. Jorge M. Manuel**, sister **Amparo** (†), Brother **Manny** (†) and sister-in-law **Fannie**, nephew and nieces, Aunt **Nena**, cousins, relatives and friends request everyone to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mortuary of Barangay Marilag Multi-purpose Hall at P. Tuazon Ave., Proj. 4, Quezon City (in front of Proj. 4 Public Market).

Interment will be on Saturday, July 16, 2005 at the North Cemetery after the 10:00 A.M. Mass at the Lourdes Church, N.S. Amoranto (formerly Retiro St.) Quezon City.

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Department of Land Reform

BIARSP

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Support Programme** (BIARSP) is a bilateral development programme between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. Its aim is to assist the Department of Land Reform (DLR) formerly Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to successfully complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

BIARSP is currently on its third and final phase of implementation. BIARSP is regarded as one of the most important programmes for agrarian reform. It is highly regarded on account of its integrated approach covering not only agricultural support services but also education, public health and institutional capacity building.

To further strengthen the programme's implementation, its Technical Support and Coordination Office (TSCO) is seeking to recruit the following:

- **Two (2) Rural Infrastructure Support (RIS) Coaches**

In coordination and consultation with the Catch-Up Plan Manager and the DLR Regional & Provincial Program Management Office Engineers, the successful candidates will among others: coach on the management of RIS project; review and assess relevant documents; assess the execution capacity at the LGU level; and report delays in project management process, and consequently execution, immediately.

- **One (1) Public Health (PH) Coach**

In coordination and consultation with the Catch-Up Plan Manager, the successful candidate will among others: administratively follow-up on approved PH activities; coach on the management of the PH projects; and report delays in project management process, and consequently execution, immediately.

Detailed tasks and responsibilities and required qualifications for the above positions are posted on www.biarsptsco.org and interested applicants are urged to review the Terms of Reference (TOR) before applying. Interested parties should write to the **BIARSP – TSCO, 2nd Floor Sol Y Mar Bldg., Cor. Rizal Blvd. – San Juan Street, Dumaguete City, Oriental Negros**, either by fax to (035) 422-7736, or by e-mail to tsco@biarsp.org on or before July 22, 2005. Or you may call us at tel #s: (035) 225-5929-30; 225-8661; 422-7459. ***Electronic applications are encouraged.***

WHERE YOU FIND THE BEST. *Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com*

Meralco to start final phase of ₱30-B refund

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-LED Manila Electric Co. will finally start implementing the fourth and last phase of its P30-billion refund program, following the Energy Regulatory Commission's issuance of an order approving its revised refund proposal.

According to the ERC order, Meralco customers who are still connected to the utility may, under Phase 4a of the refund scheme, start getting their rebates this month. The refund process may stretch up to December next year.

Phase 4a customers with terminated accounts as of April 30, 2003 may avail themselves of the refund from May 2006 to November 2006.

Under Phase 4b, active customers can get their refunds from October this year to December 2010, while those with terminated accounts can claim their rebates from January 2008 to June 2008.

Leonardo Mabale, head of Meralco's refund management task force, said that the actual refunds might not be claimed or credited to bills until September.

This was because the power distributor was still awaiting the final revenue memorandum order from the Bureau of Internal Revenue that would give the utility specific details on how to withhold taxes from the refundable amounts under Phase 4 of the refund scheme, he explained.

According to the BIR revenue regulation, the taxes "should be applied to both active and terminated accounts," Mabale told the INQUIRER. "However, we have yet to get the details on how to withhold. I think the RMO is still being routed for comments and approvals now."

The BIR earlier in the year issued an order for Meralco to withhold 25 percent creditable income tax on Phase 4 customers with active accounts, and 32 percent on customers with terminated accounts.

Details on exactly how the tax withholding process would be carried out by Meralco, particularly for customers that might have exemptions, had yet to be issued, Mabale said.

As soon as Meralco gets the RMO, he said, letters containing information on the refund would be sent out, with the actual refund to be conducted shortly thereafter. He said customers should expect the letters by the first week of August.

Under the ERC order, Phase 4 customers can avail themselves of the refund through cash, fixed credit to future bills, post-dated checks or refund checks.

Arrears, if any, as well as withholding taxes would be deducted from the total refundable amount, the ERC order said.

Phase 4 of the P30-billion Meralco refund program is the last and costliest of all four phases, coming up to around 18 billion and representing 62 percent of the total refundable amount.

'Predator' banks seen to gobble up 'prey' in new round of mergers

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES may be in for a new round of bank mergers.

According to a CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets banking study, potential "predators" such as the Ayala family, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., as well as taipans Henry Sy, Lucio Tan, George Ty and John Gokongwei, are seen to prey on big targets such as Equitable PCIBank, Philippine National Bank and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

"There is ample supply of big banks in the country which we believe would be sold by the current owners given the right price," the CLSA said in its recent banking study entitled "Brighter Horizon."

CLSA added it was a good time to "wheel and deal" as share prices of banks have not yet gone through the roof.

Alfred Dy, CLSA Philippines research head, and Daniel Tabbush, CLSA head of banking research, authored the study.

There are a couple of business groups or banks in the Philippines that are well positioned to do an acquisition, including the Ayalas' Bank of the Philippine Islands, and the Sys' Banco de Oro Universal Bank, the study said.

BPI has fully digested the acquisition of Far East Bank in 1999 and is now looking for possible acquisitions.

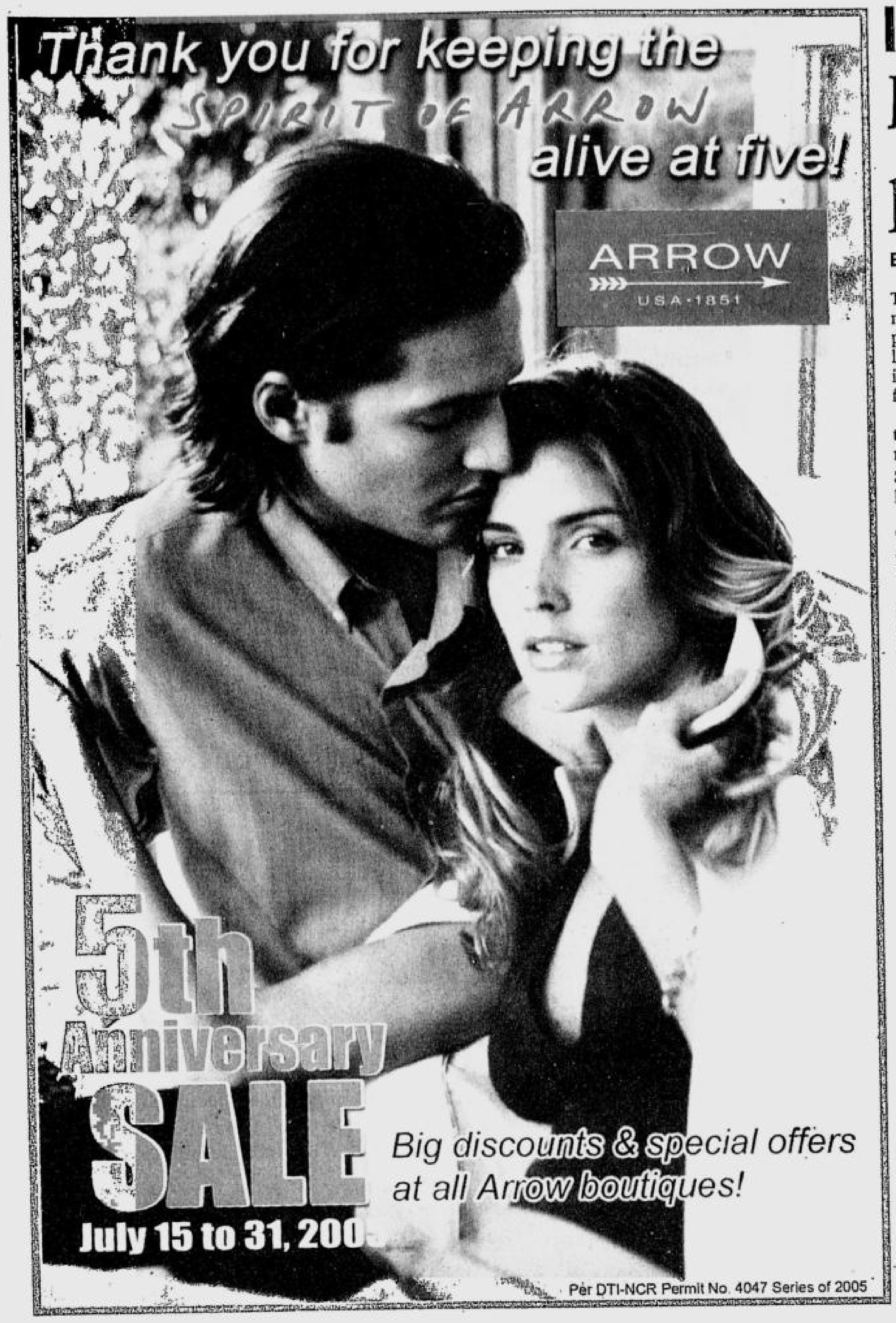
The study said that PNB, where a 67 percent stake is being bid out jointly by the government and Lucio Tan, was an ideal takeover candidate given its strength in the mass market as well as the overseas Filipino workers remittance market.

RCBC was also cited as an ideal takeover target given recent problems of the Yuchengco group with its pre-need company Pacific Plans. Though CLSA believes the Yuchengco group will hold on to its stake in RCBC, the bank is seen attracting the roving eyes of banking predators due to its strong brand equity, branch network and asset base.

"Though Metrobank is saddled with nonperforming assets of P60 billion, we believe George Ty may still be looking at PNB and RCBC given that their market capitalizations are below $250 million each," the study said.

"Buying a rival should push Metrobank beyond the reach of others aspiring to grab the top position in the local banking industry," it said.

According to the CLSA, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas wants fewer but stronger banks, which is why the regulator is pushing for further industry consolidation. The BSP has put a moratorium on giving out branch licenses, thereby encouraging banks to acquire other banks. The BSP also gives incentives for banks that merge.



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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Helping micro firms think big

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AT LEASt one micro enterprise is born every day in the Philippines.

Unfortunately, many of them remain micro enterprises until the day they die.

Very few plow ahead to become small and medium enterprises with an asset size of at least P3 million and a manpower complement of 10 employees.

One reason is that the owners of these micro enterprises do not even think that they have the innate skills to get their business to graduate to the next level.

Start micro, and end micro, is their mindset.

Thus, there are over 750,000 firms classified as micro by the government. Only 61,759 are considered small (assets of P3 million to P10 million); 2,923 enterprises are medium (assets of P10 million to P100 million); and 2,958 are large (assets of over P100 million).

But they can be so much more, according to Rhodora G. Hizon, project manager of the Center for Small Entrepreneurs.

Hizon tells Business Friday that with training in basic skills such as book keeping, accounting, marketing and packaging, micro enterprises can join the ranks of small and medium enterprises providing jobs and opportunities to fellow Filipinos.

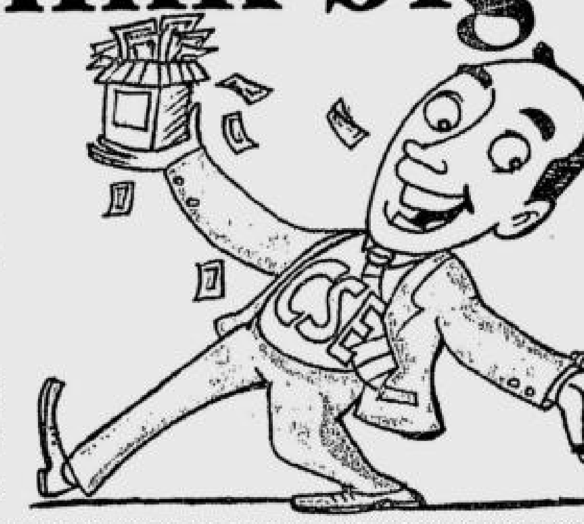
"Many of these small entrepreneurs believe that livelihood is an end in itself. They do not know that they have the potential to grow. That is what we are focused on, getting them to grow," says Hizon.

CSE is especially focused on the "bottom micro" enterprises with an asset size of between P30,000 and P100,000, and "middle micro" firms with a maximum of P1 million in assets.

Barriers to growth

There are many barriers that these micro enterprises need to overcome, however, if they want to become big.

HELPING/ B2-2



WHAT'S INSIDE

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BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

Firm taps schools for its manpower base

IN SUPPORT of its thrust to be an employer of choice, the Philips Group of Companies has launched a program that would link the company to various schools in the country to meet its manpower requirements.

Fifteen engineering schools, five technical schools and four business schools nationwide have been initially tapped by Philips People Services to build up its technical and business manpower base as the company moves forward to be the leader in healthcare, lifestyle and technology.

The Philips Academe Linkage Program involves having access to the school's database of new graduates and graduating students with respective rankings based on their academic performance, regular participation in school job fairs, in-campus recruitment through interviews and forums, and referrals from the school administration.

These new graduates and graduating students, particularly in the fields of science, engineering and business, will have the chance to be included in a pool of pre-qualified applicants to various positions available in the company, either for on-the-job training or for probationary employment.

PHILIPS president and CEO Med Mateo (left) with representatives of institutions involved in the program.

Philips in the Philippines is active in the fields of healthcare, lifestyle and technology. It has a broad portfolio of products and technologies created through decades of expertise in lighting, consumer electronics, medical systems, domestic appliances and personal care, semiconductors, research and design.

"At Philips, we are passionately committed to helping improve the lives of the Filipino people through innovative and meaningful products. Today, we are continuing to apply our spirit of innovation in the areas of healthcare, lifestyle and technology to bring these products and technologies that make things easier and convenient for everyone," Philips Philippines president and CEO Med Mateo said.

"Our program linking the company to schools all over the country gives us the opportunity not only to make full use of the potentials of a new graduate or a graduating student, but also allows us to share with them our experience of success in a career, which is actually what makes Philips a better place to be," Mateo added.

Helping micro firms...

From page B21

Hizon says it is not unusual to find small entrepreneurs without any accounting system.

They have no concept of a bottom line, and the need to plow back earnings to make the business grow.

Hardly any records are kept, personnel management is unheard of, and costing is often flawed.

They are millionaires one day, and paupers the next.

It's really not their fault, Hizon says, as most of these "bottom" and "middle" micro entrepreneurs do not have any formal background in business. Some have not even finished high school.

The lack of a formal business background, however, should not be reason to not think like entrepreneurs.

The CSE says businessmen should not be content to just have a source of livelihood. They should embrace real entrepreneurship.

CSE defines an entrepreneur as someone with a positive attitude, an ability to see and evaluate business opportunities and the willingness to take risks to achieve his vision.

Have a vision

"We tell our trainees that they must have a vision. They must want their company to grow to provide livelihood," Hizon says.

"We say that the only thing that differentiates micro entrepreneurs from the Gokongweis of this world is a vision, and the willingness to turn this vision into reality," she adds.

CSE is a nongovernment organization formed in 1996 to foster this powerful entrepreneurial spirit, believing that the solution to unemployment lies in growing the numbers of entrepreneurs.

It trains Filipinos who are either interested in setting up their own business, or improving on their existing business operations.

The Start Your Own Business training runs for three days. It costs P1,800 and a business plan is produced at the end of three days.

Other training programs touch on bookkeeping and accounting, marketing, packaging, costing and pricing, record keeping and purchasing and stock control.

These trainings delve on basic concepts such as identifying the target market, contacting suppliers, stock control, calculating costs, sales analysis and business planning.

Some of these trainings run for a day, others extend to two days.

CSE dedicates itself to training, as it believes that micro entrepreneurs can develop and sustain their enterprise if given the opportunity, proper resources and unwavering support. *(For more information, please call 5239776/5241879).*

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ADMISSION IS FREE! Just register at the Organizer's Counter.
Students will be allowed entry on Saturday, July 16, 2005.
Children below seven (7) will not be allowed inside the exhibit area.

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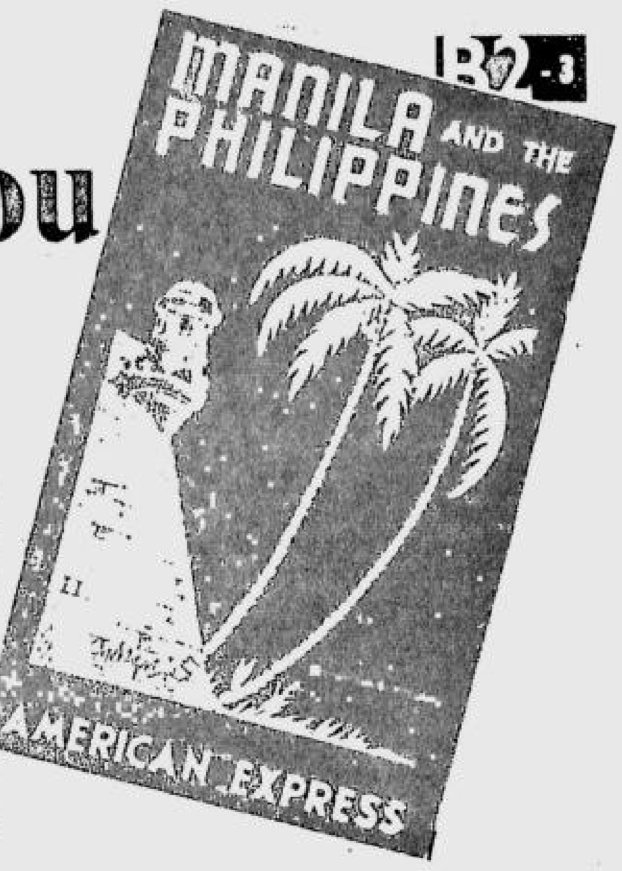


THIS is the reprint of the cover of a book published in 1939 by American Express that served as a guide for visitors to the country.

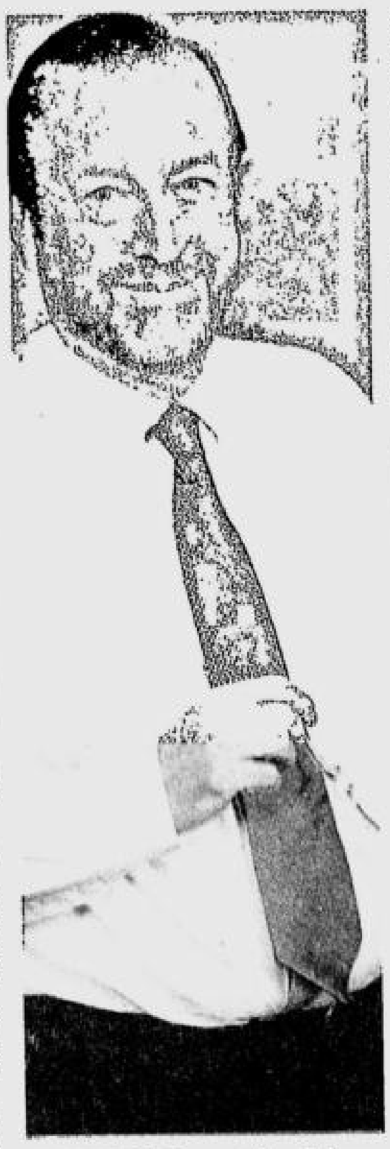
American Express opened its first office outside Asia in 1916 at No. 36 Escolta, Manila.

American Express head in Manila Ian Fisher says a friend of his found a 1939 copy in a second-hand bookstore in the US and sent it to him. He reprinted it and sent copies to some of their clients.

The book is an interesting read as one gleans the cost of traveling during those times.

American Express started as a travel organization and now has 1,700 agencies worldwide.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino



AMERICAN Express' Ian Fisher grew the payment centers for the card from one 10 years ago to over a thousand today.

TEN years ago when Ian Fisher first walked into the lobby of the office of American Express in the Philippines, he saw a crowd watching CNN on a large screen TV.

No, they were not watching a major event; the people were queuing to pay their Amex credit card bills. A decade ago there was only one place to pay your credit card bills—the Makati office.

"The place was a madhouse," Fisher comments.

As the new country manager of the American Express Co. in the Philippines, Fisher's first order of the day was to shop around for big banks that can accept their bill payments.

Today, Fisher proudly says Amex has 1,000 paying centers that include BPI, BDO, Unionbank and Equitable PCIBank.

"We picked the big banks and now we have nationwide acceptance," says Fisher.

Amex has been offering credit cards to Filipinos since the 1950s, the first company to do so. However for the past five decades, the cards were dollar-based meaning all payments had to be in dollars. Last September the firm offered peso credit cards for the first time.

The American Express Peso Platinum card targets Filipinos who travel frequently.

Fisher declines to say how many cardholders they have in the Philippines but the number is actual very small as American Express is a niche card. In the Philippines, the market includes some of the wealthiest individuals in the country. Most of the time this card does not have a credit limit.

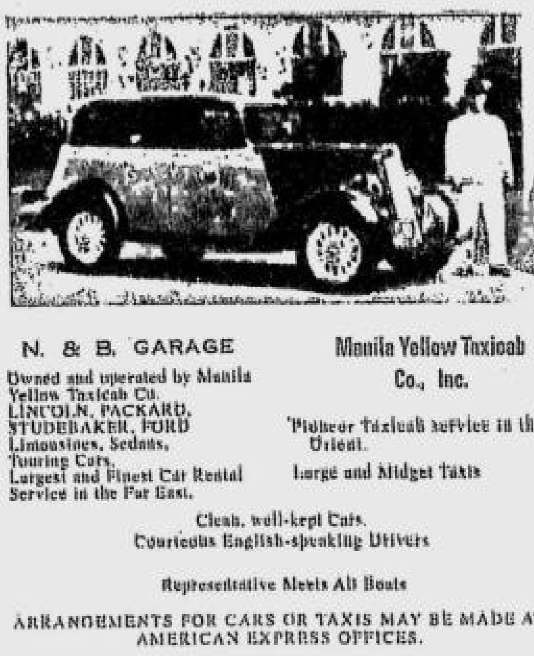
As of the end of December, Amex cardholders worldwide total some 65.4 million.

The value in owning an Amex card, explains Amex card marketing head Patty Pronove-Henson, is its concierge services.

The firm believes it differentiates itself from other credit card firms by the 24/7 services offered by its platinum concierge and the access it provides its clients to travel counselors, and provides clients with services like legal emergencies, changes in travel plans, shopping and purchasing materials in an unfamiliar environment and the more common problems of mishandled luggage and delayed flights.

American Express card marketing acquisition head Grace Limjap calls the platinum concierge an "assistant while you're on the road."

Take the matter of simply inviting a potential client to meet you in a city foreign to you. "You want a venue that will make a statement for you but if you can't even figure out where the nearest drugstore to the hotel is, how do you expect to find just the right restaurant," Limjap says.



N. & B. GARAGE

Owned and operated by Manila Yellow Taxicab Co.
LINCOLN, PACKARD, STUDEBAKER, FORD
Limousines, Sedans, Touring Cars.
Largest and Finest Car Rental Service in the Far East.

Manila Yellow Taxicab Co., Inc.

Pioneer Taxicab service in the Orient.
Large and Midget Taxis

Clean, well-kept Cars.
Courteous English-speaking Drivers

Representative Meets All Boats

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARS OR TAXIS MAY BE MADE AT AMERICAN EXPRESS OFFICES.

TAXI service ad was the back cover

American Express Platinum card members get insurance against travel inconvenience of up to P80,000 for meals and accommodations. They also have complimentary access to airport lounges at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the domestic airport for themselves and one guest.

These perks of course have a price. The annual fee of an American Express card is P4,800, much higher than the average fee of about P2,000 for other credit cards. However, other card firms' platinum cards charge annual fees of P4,000 to P7,500.

In the Philippines, the card also has limitations. Although Fisher says the number of merchants that accept American Express doubled over the last 12 months, it is still not the most accepted credit card in the country.

Henson admits they are after a select niche and that American Express cards are not for everyone.

"While our annual membership fee is higher than average, it actually represents a lot of value to people who have international exposure," Henson says.

American Express has a promo until the end of the month that upon approval of a card application, a cardholder gets 8,000 membership reward points—enough to redeem one round-trip ticket to Kalibo through Philippine Airlines' Mabuhay Miles Program.

American Express has been in the Philippines as a travel agency. Today however its travel serves are provided by Adventure International Tours Inc.

SM CITY San Lazaro opens in the site of the former home of the Manila Jockey Club.

Henry Sy opens 20th mall

SM CITY San Lazaro opens to the public today.

Located at the four-hectare property at the corner of AH Lacson Street (formerly Governor Forbes) and Felix Huertas Street and the northeast section of Manila, the new mall's site is both historic and bustling.

On one hand, it is located at the former Manila Jockey Club of the San Lazaro Hippodrome. One of the country's oldest racing clubs and the first in Southeast Asia, the Manila Jockey Club was formed in the summer of 1867 by a group fo sportsmen led by Jose de la Gandara y Navarro, the Spanish governor general of the Philippines.

The MJC has evolved over the years to become the premiere place for horse racing enthusiasts, and is today prepared for its development into a mixed used commercial complex, part of which will be SM City San Lazaro.

The area is a short ride from some of the busiest sections of Manila—the university belt, downtown and Chinatown. It is conveniently located beside LRT stations in Tayuman and Blumentritt; major schools like the Universty of Sto. Tomas and Far Eastern University; as well as commercial and residential establishments in the three areas.

Super Bowl of China expands

SUPER Bowl of China Restaurant continues its expansion plans with the recent opening of its newest branch in Blue Wave Marquinton, Marikina City. It is the chain's 10th branch. Soon to open are branches in Tomas Morato, Quezon City and SM San Lazaro, Manila.

The new store occupies about 200 square meters of Blue Wave Mall's ground floor and can comfortably seat up to 102 diners.

The restaurant's specialty dishes include its dimsum selection, assorted roasts, noodles, rice toppings and assorted meat and seafood dishes.

Super Bowl of China's other branches are located at the Megastrip of SM Megamall; Jupiter Street in Makati City; Glorietta 4 in Ayala Center; Chefs Avenue in Festival Mall, Alabang; 2nd level of SM City North Edsa; Eastwood City Walk 2 in Libis; ground floor of SM City in Fairview; The Promenade in Greenhills; 3rd level of Gateway Mall in Araneta Center, Cubao and Bluewave, Marikina.

Bank off to strong start with fund

EQUITABLE PCI Bank's Unit Investment Trust Funds (UITF) outstripped benchmark rates, marking an auspicious start for the country's third largest bank as it makes the mandated shift to selling UITFs.

Launched in May, EPCIB GS Fund, EPCIB US Dollar Fund and EPCIB Equity Fund all produced superior returns in their first month of operation.

"The market response to our latest offerings has been positive and we are delighted to be able to reward investors trust with a strong opening month performance. This will serve to increase our strong momentum in attracting clients to the funds," said Marvin V. Fausto, EPCIBank senior vice president and head of trust banking.

"We expect to achieve as much success with the new products as we did with the traditional products, in terms of both generating outstanding returns and growing the asset base," he added.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has put the marketing of common trust funds to a halt. It is believed that shifting to UITF will align Philippine practices in operating pooled funds with global best practices.

Like common trust funds and mutual funds, UITFs are pooled trust funds that are managed by a trust entity and made available to the public by participation, providing investors the benefit of economies of scale and expertise of professional fund management.

But they are more transparent, with their underlying assets being marked to market daily and their market value posted regularly.

Fausto credits the outperformance by the bank's new pooled funds to his team's rigorous research and strict discipline in risk allocation.

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FURNITURE MADNESS
Up to 50% OFF
GREAT SELECTIONS
FREE Gift Certificates on selected items!
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July 15 to 31, 2005 only
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MONDAYS THRU SUNDAYS
8:30 A.M. TO 7:30 PM
*ACCESSORIES NOT INCLUDED
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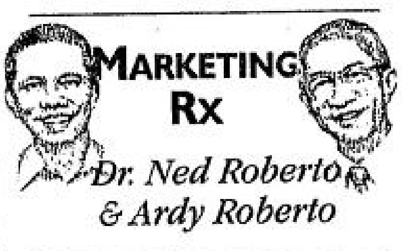
2250 Don Chino Roces Avenue near corner EDSA, Makati City Tels. 840-4878 · 893-6589
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. AI-625 SERIES OF 2005
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

What kind of advertising makes the most profits?



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: WE ARE in the money remittance business. Business is good but very competitive. I have a very tight advertising budget (my boss even wants to further cut it because of the economy). I know that we should continue to advertise so I want to make sure that we get the most out of our print and radio advertising (we can't afford TV) and our direct mail. Could you tell me what kind of advertising makes the most money or profit? I would like to be able to help create and recognize good advertising and avoid wasting money.

A: To answer your question, we've asked Drayton Bird to be our guest columnist. Bird has personally worked with advertising legends like Leo Burnett as his creative group head and later on with David Ogilvy as his vice chair and worldwide creative director of Ogilvy & Mather Direct. He's authored three marketing books including Commonsense Direct Marketing and Marketing Insights and Outrages that between them have been translated into 12 languages. Based in London, Bird will be flying (pun unintended) to Manila this Aug. 24 to conduct a seminar on Commonsense Direct Marketing. Here is his answer to your question:

Want to make more money from your advertising? This may surprise you.

Do you see your advertising as something you have to do, because everyone else does? Like a necessary evil—a cost?

Or do you see it as a way of making more money?

I hope you said the second, because research proves those who advertise most make most profit. It takes no great brain to discover this. You only have to study giant firms like Procter and Gamble, Coca-Cola or Wrigley's Chewing Gum—to see it.

So it's amazing how few senior businessmen, even in the world's most sophisticated firms, understand advertising. This is ridiculous, because vast sums of money are involved.

And contrary to what many think, advertising is not a matter of flair: there are many simple, proven principles.

Perhaps the most famous saying about advertising is "I know half of my advertising is wasted; but I don't know which half."

I have seen this attributed to three people: Henry Ford; the first Lord Leverhume, who built up Lever Brothers; and John Wanamaker, who started one of the first great department stores in Chicago.

Going back to chewing gum, a journalist once asked William Wrigley how important he thought advertising was. They were on board an airplane. Wrigley replied: "What do you think would happen if they switched off the engines on this plane?"

Lessons in chewing gum

The interesting thing about Wrigley's is that their advertising is mostly very dull. No clever tricks, jokes or original ideas. It just repeats the name Wrigley's, shows the pack, and says how refreshing their product is.

If you want to make your advertising work harder there is a lesson in this. You don't have to be clever to succeed. Actually, being clever is usually fatal. There are four reasons why.

First: your advertising money is completely wasted on anyone who doesn't understand its message. Second: most customers are not very clever. You may think this is rather unkind, but it happens to be true. Third: although there are far more stupid people than clever ones, their money looks exactly the same. Fourth: even if they are clever, people rarely concentrate when they read or look at advertising, so they won't work to understand your clever idea

So don't be smart. Be simple.

You will find advertising agencies love to do clever advertising. The reason lies in human nature. Advertising people, like everyone else, enjoy showing off to their friends and being praised. In the advertising industry, praise comes in the form of awards, which usually go to clever ideas.

But clever ideas are rarely the ones that sell. In fact in a survey a few years ago, the top creative directors in America were asked to vote for their favorite advertisements. Their list had absolutely nothing to do with sales.

What can you offer the customer?

Apart from the dangers of being clever, there is a second lesson to be learnt from studying Wrigley's. For advertising to succeed, you must offer a benefit. In their case this is usually refreshment, though they sometimes emphasize that chewing gum can be good for your teeth. This is true, because chewing increases saliva, and saliva cleanses the mouth.

There is a third lesson in that. Advertising that tells the truth works better than advertising that lies. Actually, that is an understatement. Lies not only fail to sell: they unsell. They actively put people off your brand, product or service.

If you lie and get found out, not only has all your money been wasted; in addition, you anger the customer. I am not saying you should emphasize the weaknesses of your product or service; I am just saying, don't lie.

The fourth lesson is also simple: in advertising, as in everything else, it pays to be consistent. Don't keep changing your message. You confuse people.

The world's greatest brand is Coca-Cola. For over a hundred years, they too have chosen to sell refreshment. From this you can learn a fifth lesson. You don't have to be original to succeed. You just have to find the most appropriate appeal for your product or service.

You may learn a sixth lesson from successful advertisers. Neither Coca-Cola, Wrigley's nor any good advertiser makes the mistake of just boasting—"We're the best." They talk about the benefits they offer, not about how wonderful they are.

People don't like advertisers who boast, just as they dislike people who boast. They are not credible. You may think you are wonderful; but I don't care. That's because I think I'm wonderful and prefer to reflect upon my wonders rather than yours.

What works— and what doesn't

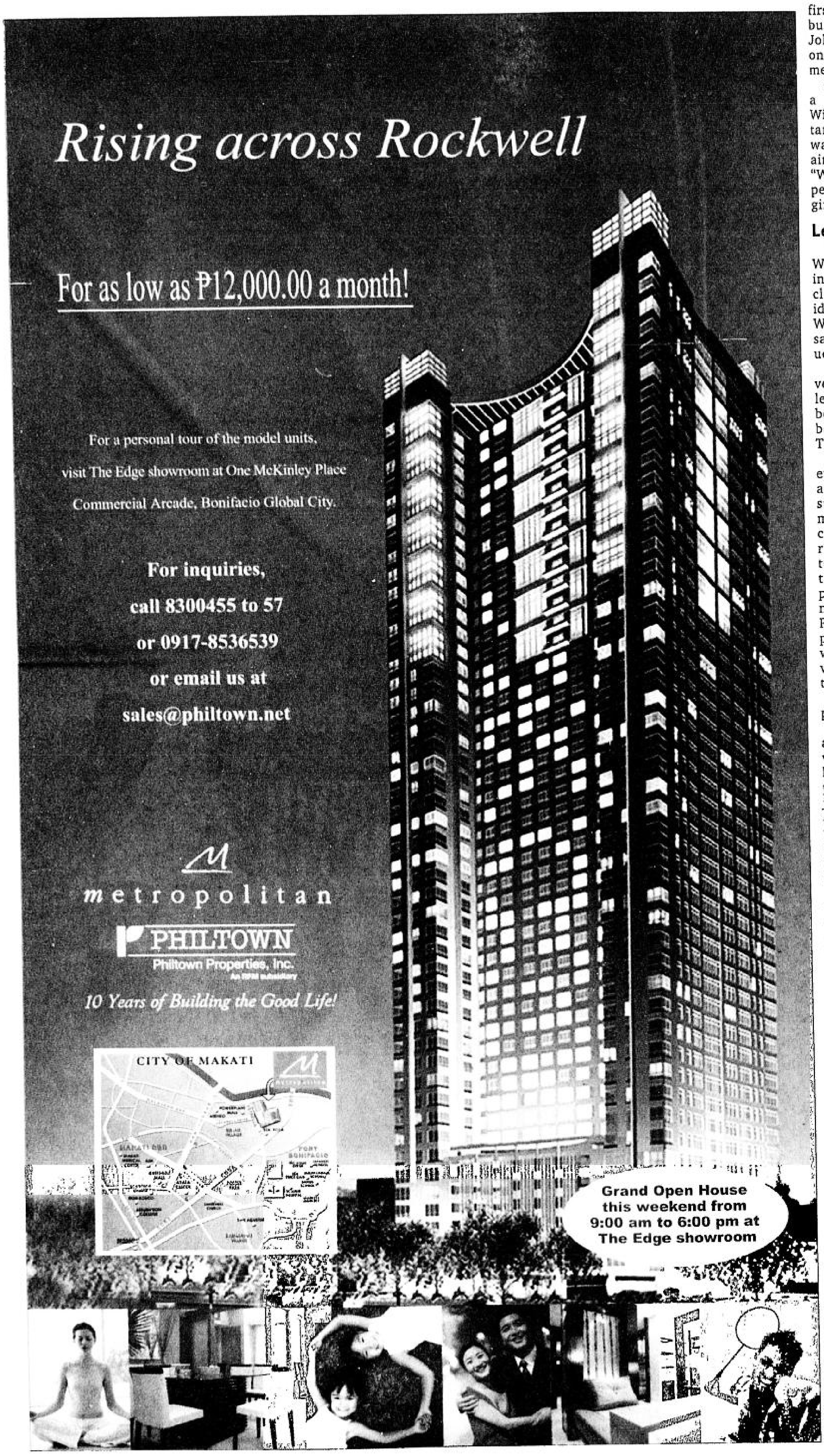
Here is a list of things learned in 1985 by Gallup research in America into what makes advertisements work best. I doubt if the principles have changed since then:

1. The best advertisements command attention, communicate a message and persuade through illustrations, headlines and copy.
2. A successful ad rewards the reader by providing news or information, solving a problem, or appealing to the emotions.
3. You should repeat the message three times—in illustration, headline and copy.
4. Illustrations which relate directly to the message work on average 32 percent better.
5. If you don't illustrate either the product or the idea, the ad is 27 percent less effective than average.
6. Stereotyped pictures—chatting people, loving couples, smiling sippers and ecstatic eaters kill ads. That's because they don't develop any unique quality.
7. Specific headlines work best. Vague headlines reduce impact by 11 percent on average. The most damaging headlines are brag and boast.
8. Short headlines perform just as well as very long ones.
9. New ideas, products, new ways to use a product, can add an average 24 percent to performance.
10. Humor only adds 10 percent on average, and then only when used carefully.
11. Celebrities can add 25 percent. But if the celebrity is not relevant to the product, he or she does more harm than good.
12. Recipes deliver an average of 29 percent over average.
13. Coupons do not add much impact, but boost persuasion an average of 26 percent. (Other research I have seen shows they also increase readership significantly.)

If you know all the things I have mentioned above about what makes advertising work, there is a very strong chance you know more than your advertising agency.

An interesting thought if you prefer investments to costs.

If you want to attend Drayton Bird's upcoming Commonsense Direct Marketing seminar, please call 813-2732/03. Send questions to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.



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For as low as ₱12,000.00 a month!

For a personal tour of the model units, visit The Edge showroom at One McKinley Place Commercial Arcade, Bonifacio Global City.

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CITY OF MAKATI

Grand Open House this weekend from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm at The Edge showroom

INQBOX Question of the Week

Amidst the confusion and controversies, what are your hopes and dreams for our country and people?

Win this *Inquirer shirt

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt! Ü

Key in: inquirer box name/age/city/message.
text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Ventures to get into for ₱750,000 to ₱8M

By Amy R. Remo

AS MORE aspiring entrepreneurs discover the edge of franchising, a lot of companies also recognize this increasing demand, as well as the benefits that go along with having one's company franchised.

Two weeks ago, Business Friday featured five franchises one can get into for P500,000 or less.

Here is another set of businesses, all of which recently delved into franchising. You can try your hand into these investments, ranging from as low as P750,000 to as high as P8 million.

Body and Sole

BODY and Sole Body Massage and Foot Spa aims not only to provide health and wellness services to the general public, but also to offer the services at half the cost.

Started in May 2003, Body and Sole uses aromatherapy and a combination of Shiatsu and Swedish massages. Hot aromatic towels are used to rid the skin of toxins and excess oils, followed by a therapeutic firming lotion to seal in the body's natural moisture.

It started to offer franchises in October of the same year.

After two years, Body and Sole now has 26 branches nationwide, 14 of which are in Cebu.

Type of business: Spa

Franchise fee: P500,000

Franchise renewal fee: P250,000 (good for another five years)

Royalty and advertising fee: 3 percent of gross sales to be paid monthly

Total investment package: P800,000 to P1.2 million

Terms of franchise: 5 years

ROI: As short as 8 months

Contact person: Johnie C. Lim, CEO

Company address:

Suite 139-B, ground floor, Raintree Mall, F. Ramos St., Cebu City, Tel No. (032) 254-9638

Email: info@bodyandsolephilippines.com

Website: www.bodyandsolephilippines.com

Pinkbox

AS ONE of the players in the country's fashion accessories industry, Pinkbox offers its customers a wide range of affordable, trendy and uniquely creative pieces.

Pinkbox, set up in 2002, aims to capture heart and purse of the market with its colorful stores and innovative, fashion accessories. It has eight stores, with eight more opening soon.

Pinkbox ventures into franchising to offer entrepreneurs an opportunity to own a unique, affordable and enjoyable retail business.

Type of business: retail accessories

Total investment package: Store: P1.5 million

Kiosk: P750,000

Terms of franchise: 5 years

Preferred sites: Pinkbox has a list of available mall spaces but will welcome proposed locations from interested applicants

Contact person:

Nelly Lee, president

Agnes Canino

Tel. No:833-9265; 833-9375

Email: pnsbox_mail@yahoo.com

Website: www.pinkbox.com.ph

Clara International

ESTABLISHED in 1977 in Malaysia, Clara International Beauty Corp. offers an array of non-surgical face and body treatments, using over 200 advanced and revolutionary herbal-based products.

With over two decades in the business and some breakthroughs in the herbal skincare and beauty industry, Clara has more than 60 beauty centers worldwide including China, Singapore, Vietnam, Sweden, Switzerland, USA and the Philippines.

About 60 percent of its centers are franchises.

Clara's local team consists of dermatologists, beauty consultants and registered nurses, assuring high-quality care and service to its customers.

Type of business: skincare and beauty center

Total investment package: P8 million

Terms of franchise: 5 years

Contact person:

Mary Simision, president

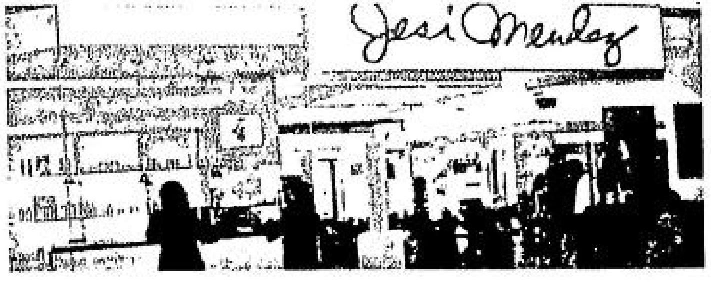
Tel. Nos: 374-0974; 374-6154

Company address:

Clara International Philippines Inc., Sunshine Boulevard Plaza, Unit 1S, 2F, 1382 Quezon Ave. cor. Scout Santiago, Quezon City

Email: clara_international@yahoo.com

Jesi Mendez



ONCE a hole-in-the-wall beauty salon in Makati, the over 20-year-old Jesi Mendez salon is now one of the big names in its sector, backed by almost three decades of professional hairdressing and makeup experience.

Jesi Mendez initially gained popularity for its bridal makeup expertise. It has seven branches and is now tapping franchising for expansion.

Type of business: beauty salon

Total investment package: P3 to 4 million (inclusive of franchise)

Terms of franchise: 5 years

Contact person:

Bing Pasco, director

Tel. Nos: 687-5263; 687-7610

Company address: Jesi Mendez Franchise Corp.

Unit 701 Megaplaza Bldg., ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Email: orionconsul@yahoo.com

CyBr Network and Internet C@fé

AS A network-based establishment, CyBr Network and Internet C@fé specializes in Internet services and computer gaming.

Starting with only 20 computer terminals back in March 2001, the shop has since then expanded to four branches located in the Camanava area.

CyBr has become one of the fastest growing Internet and gaming shops in the country today. With over 100 existing computer terminals, CyBr offers customers affordable and competitive Internet services and up-to-date computer technology in a clean, comfortable and pleasant environment.

Type of business: Network and Internet café

Total investment package: P780,000 to P1.2 million

Terms of franchise: 5 years

Contact person:

Jerry Co, president

Tel. Nos: 330-8314; 291-2238

Website: www.cybercafe.com

QUIETLY, IT SPEAKS OF INTELLIGENCE

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MULTIMETER
KIA SORENTO 2.5L EX
CRDi Diesel Engine • 5-speed Automatic HIVEC with Adaptive Sequential Shifting

You don't have to take our word for it. Just listen.

As you drive around in the Sorento, you barely hear the engine even as it churns out power you need for climbing the steepest inclines, or when the engine brake engages as you're slowing down.

Surprisingly, even amazingly, the Sorento does this all on its own.

Intelligent systems take over during all driving conditions. The Common Rail Direct Injection (**CRDi**) engine with turbo charger and intercooler senses exactly how much fuel to use. The automatic High Intelligence Vehicle Electronic Control (**HIVEC**) transmission even skips gears to exactly what is needed when you need it. And it's the only one with a part-time 4-wheel drive system that engages with the turn of a knob.

The result: minimized fuel, maximum performance. All without you having to think about it.

We speak of it as quiet intelligence in the Sorento—something that's worth a listen.

3-Years or 110,000 Kilometer Warranty

The Sorento is spoken with the highest regard by some of the world's most prestigious award-giving bodies for vehicles.

- **5-star rating for Side Impact Protection by the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 2003.**
- **5-star rating, the best among all 4x4's, by the annual JD Power & Associates Customer Satisfaction Index survey in the UK**
- **Overall 4x4 of the year 2003 by UK's 4x4 Magazine**

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KIA MOTORS
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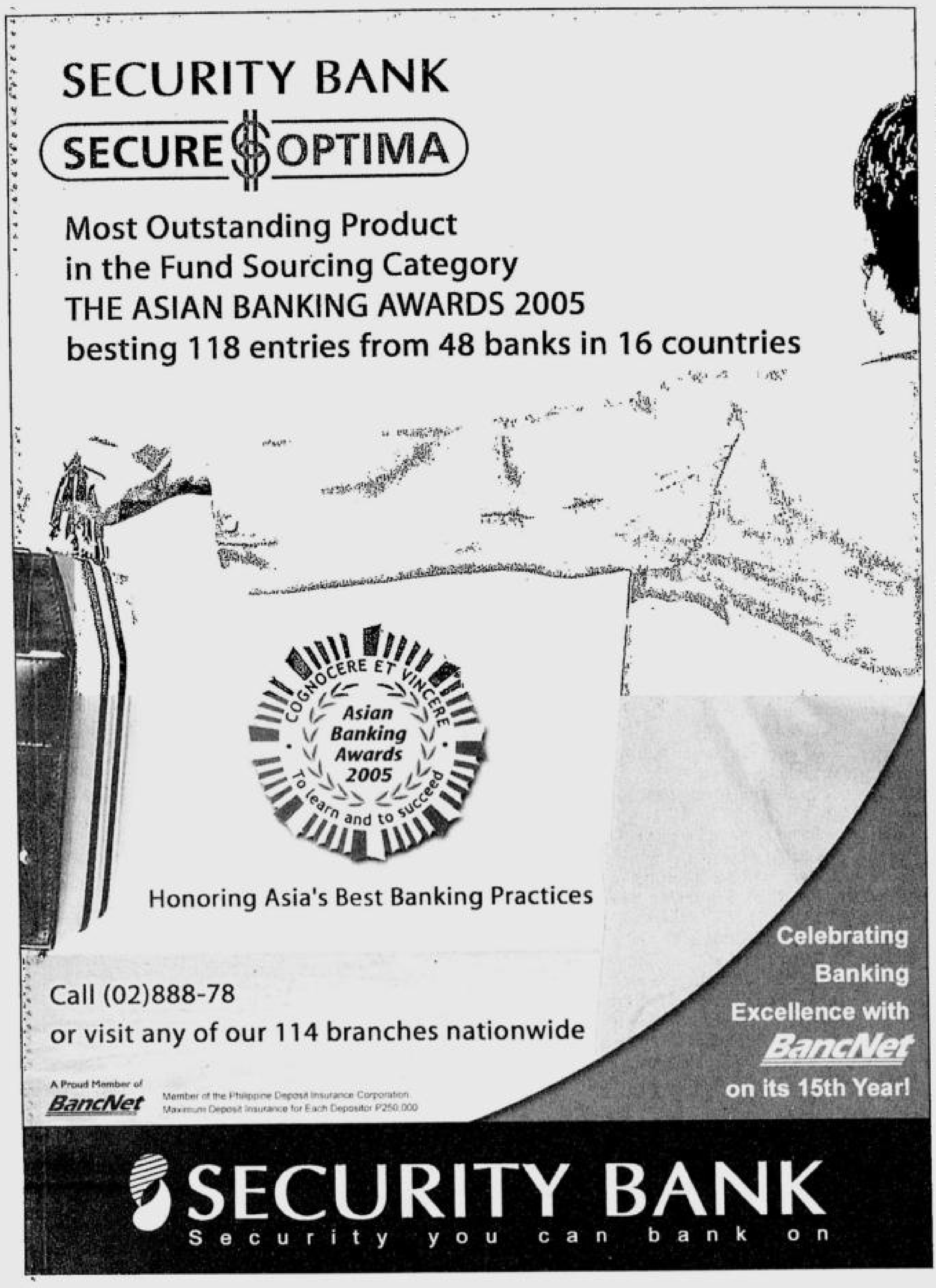
BancNet @ 15

eXpanding innoVations in e-banking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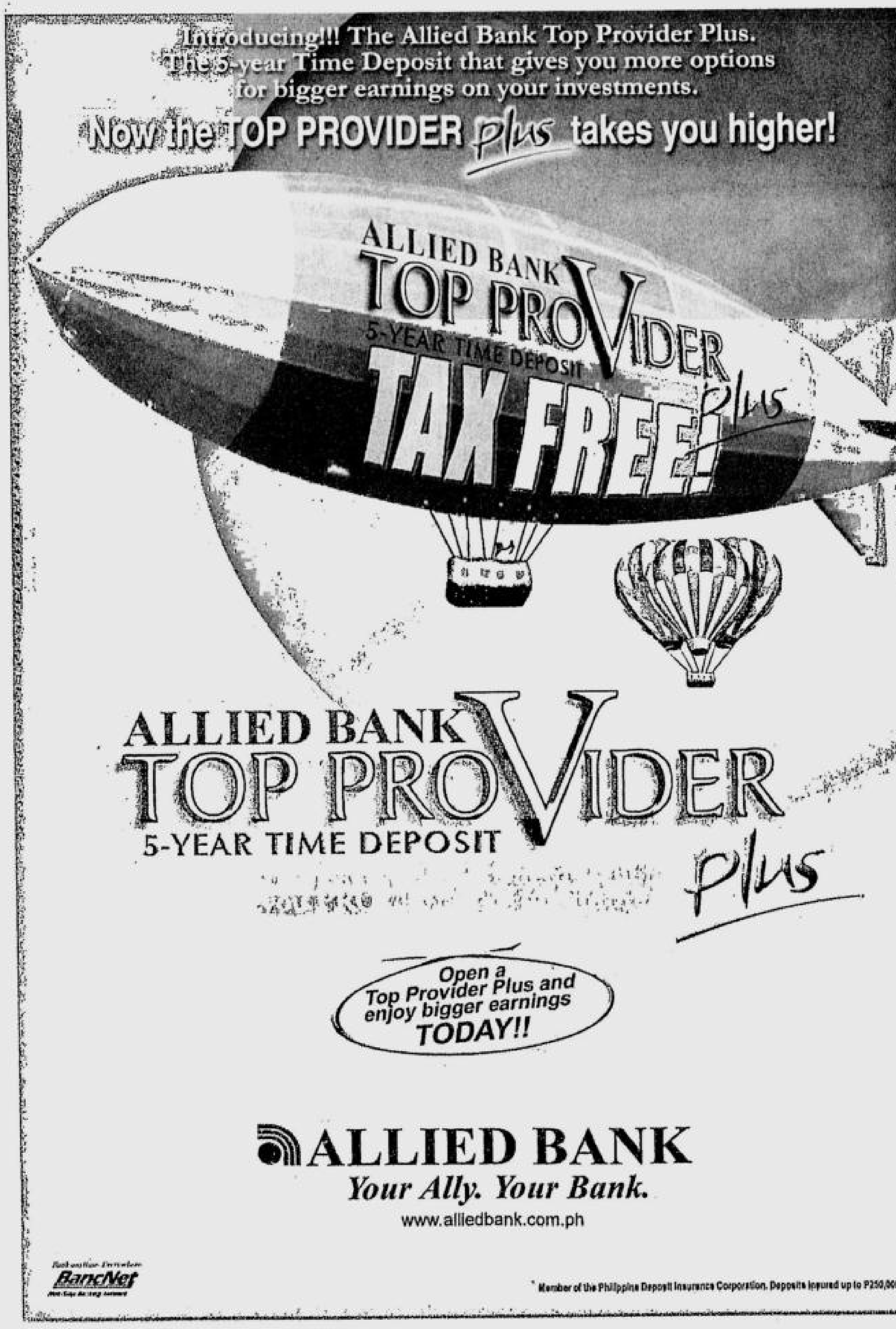
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www.alliedbank.com.ph
BancNet
*Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to P250,000.00.

THE YEAR was 1987 and automated teller machines were taking the banking industry by storm. Suddenly, depositors can withdraw funds and check the balance on their account without actually going to the bank branch.

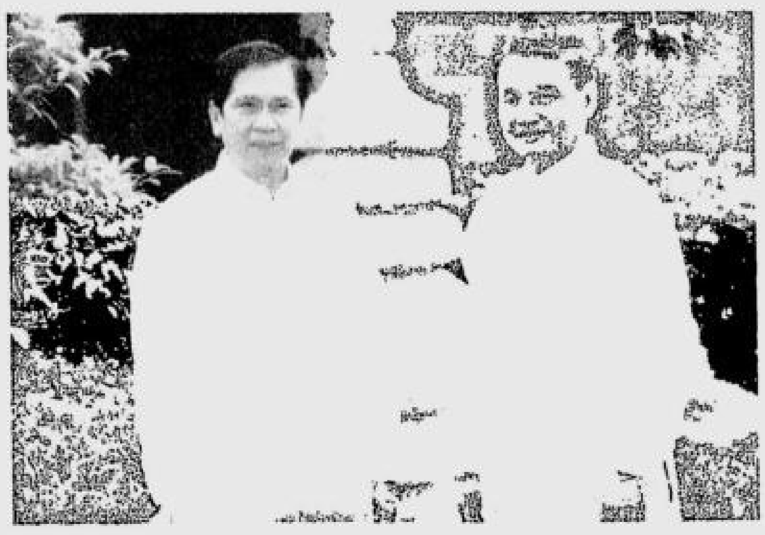
Three top executives of the country's leading banks thought of taking the concept several steps further pooling financial and human resources together to come up with an ATM network that would eventually enable its cardholders to do more than just cash withdrawals and balance inquiry.

A few years after, BancNet started operations on July 17, 1990 with eight founding members. Seeing the advantages of belonging to an ATM consortium, other banks followed suit.

Today, BancNet is the country's largest ATM network with 28 member banks belonging to the top tier local universal banks, established international banks, and regional and rural banks. The consortium prides itself with having over 2,000 ATMs nationwide serving more than four million cardholders.

Going multi-channel

This growth of BancNet would not have been possible without the commitment of the individual members to pool not just resources, but ideas and best practices to transform its vision into reality. What began as a simple ATM network for balance inquiries and cash withdrawals has now taken a life of its own, making BancNet the country's only multibank, multi-channel payments gateway 15 years later.


BANCNET president Francisco M. Caparros Jr. and BancNet chair Angelito M. Villanueva.

It all began when during one of the early meetings of BancNet, the member banks realized that cardholders could do so much more with their ATM card. This gave rise to the offering of a bills payment system which allowed cardholders to settle their bills for utilities, credit cards, cable television, telecommunications services and even make donations through the ATMs.

As the ATM account holders became more sophisticated and with time becoming a precious commodity, the demand to make financial services highly convenient spurred other innovations. By 1994, BancNet offered its Point-of-Sale facility, allowing cardholders to do debit shopping initially from groceries, and department stores without having to bring cash. Now, cardholders can also use their ATM card to buy from specialty shops, drugstores, and even gas stations with the amount of purchase automatically debited from their deposit account.

The services of BancNet transcended the concept of catering only to the cardholder. By exploring the potentials of electronic data interchange, BancNet reached out to companies and started to facilitate the remittance of their SSS contributions of their employees to the SSS in a fast, safe and paperless arrangement. With this track record, the Bureau of Internal Revenue likewise put its trust in BancNet for tax payments which are electronically transferred to the BIR in a matter of seconds. Other contributions and loan payments are in the pipeline and will be offered soon.

Following the turn of the century, more innovations came fast and furious. BancNet pioneered in funds transfers across different member banks belonging to the consortium. Cardholders could now move money from one account to another, even if it were not their own.

BancNet then took advantage of the Internet revolution to offer online banking services through BancNet Online. And then, with the explosion of mobile phone technology, BancNet introduced mobile banking by running on the same platform as its Internet Banking facility. Cardholders now had another channel to do ATM payments and inquiry. These facilities were offered to member banks who integrated and customized these services as if it were their proprietary service.

A consortium approach

BancNet chair Angelito M. Villanueva is not surprised that BancNet has gone beyond being an off-bank facility. This is because the members never lost sight of its vision--which was to take a consortium approach to improving services to customers at the least possible cost. "At BancNet, we operate like a cooperative. Profit is secondary to our mission to serve our members and our cardholders," Villanueva said.

Francisco M. Caparros Jr., BancNet president, said plans are underway to expand the network to cover more business to government, or business to business transactions. Supporting these pioneering facilities is BancNet's strict adherence to the highest service standards, which simply means that everything works the way they should, all the time. "We really exert effort and investment to maintain the system and we are privileged because top management of the member banks are really involved in the business to make sure that we are able to deliver on our promises," Caparros said.

This reliability is a primary reason why BancNet is top of consumers' minds when it comes to ATM networks. Beyond perception, the popularity of BancNet is also reflected on the volume of transactions that the network processes every day. Caparros said that the number and the value of transactions have gone up exponentially every year, with the trend showing no signs of slowing down.

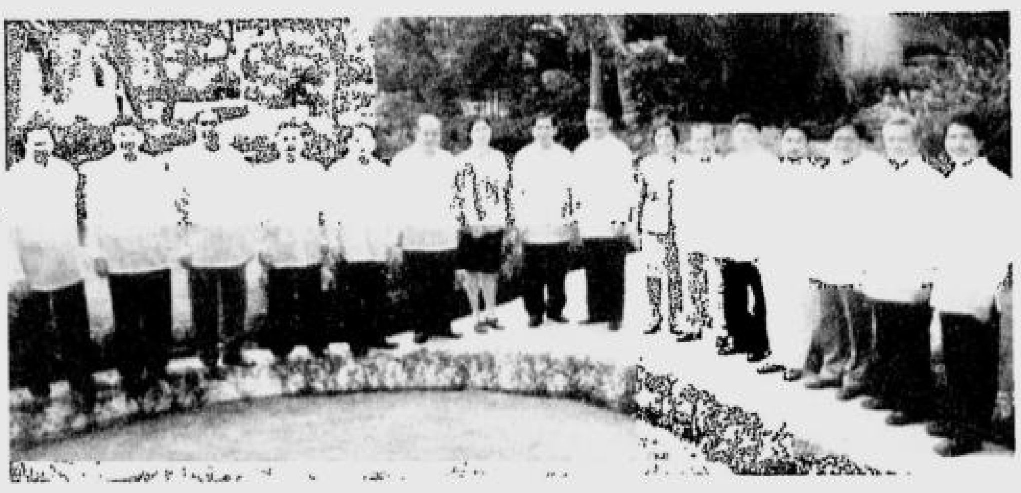
Beyond ATM Banking

With excellent synergy among its member banks and a robust financial position, BancNet will continue to pursue several projects in its pipeline. By 2006, interconnections with other ATM networks both here and abroad will become operational. This expands the reach and functionality of the BancNet ATM card, and at the same time, opens up the network to other users. More banks are knocking on the membership doors of BancNet, affirming its sound policies and commitment to a vision that remains true after all these years.

While Bancnet is out looking for ways to build its portfolio of services, it is aware of its responsibility to complement the entire financial services industry. Chair Villanueva said that BancNet has taken its success a step further by becoming a credible voice in discussions affecting the banking industry. "We have gone beyond having a strictly parochial mentality. We now think of the industry as a whole and how it affects other industries," Villanueva said.

And as the banking industry continues to evolve, BancNet is confident that it will be where it has always been - ahead of the pack and at the forefront of expanding innovations in electronic banking.

> With excellent synergy among its member banks and a robust financial position, BancNet will continue to pursue several projects in its pipeline.


BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Shown are (from left): Virgilio Katigbak, PB Com; Joseph Gerard Tiamson, Standard Chartered Bank; Francisco Magsajo Jr., RCBC; Jose Maria Valdes, Export and Industry Bank; George Castro, Philtrust Bank; Ricardo Chua, China Banking Corp; Marilyn Suarez, Merchants Bank; Francisco Caparros Jr., Asia United Bank; Angelito Villanueva, Metrobank; Cecilia Irigo, United Overseas Bank; Juan Coreces, corporate secretary; Robert Blas, Citibank, N.A.; Joven Hernandez, Security Bank; Jorge Yu, Banco Filipino; Joven Reyes, immediate past president; Huntley Uy, Chinatrust Commercial Bank. Not in photo are: Peter Yap, Allied Bank and Jose Santos, advisor.

Connecting beyond barriers

FROM just servicing the ATM needs of the customers of its member banks, BancNet first linked up with Megalink in its early years and is now firming up ties with Expressnet, bringing all networks interconnected together as one.

The combination of the country's three networks fulfills the promise that each made to their cardholders: banking convenience anytime, anywhere. "This connection with all networks is part of our thrust to always look for ways to benefit our cardholders," said BancNet chair Angelito M. Villanueva.

And Bancnet cardholders will no longer be limited to Philippine shores. An agreement was signed with China UnionPay which allows an estimated 800 million cardholders of China UnionPay to withdraw cash in the Philippines. "We are excited about this prospect because by having this facility, more Chinese would be encouraged to come to the Philippines because they know that they can use their cards here," says Francisco M. Caparros Jr., BancNet president. Soon, BancNet cardholders will also be able to do banking transactions using a China UnionPay terminal in China.

BancNet, however, is not new in the international scene. Visa cardholders who visit the Philippines can use their cards to get local currency. Soon, Cirrus cardholders can do the same.

To complete its mobile banking service with the leading cellular service providers, BancNet has partnered with Smart Communications Inc to bring ATM banking closer to the cardholders. By just using their mobile phone, cardholders can access their account for inquiries, payments and fund transfers. BancNet has also struck a deal with Headway Process Logics Inc that allow distributors to pay suppliers through BancNet's interbank fund transfer facility.

Villanueva proudly admits that "Being ahead allows BancNet to take advantage of opportunities that always appear despite economic and political challenges." It is the consortium approach to innovations again coming into play, cementing BancNet's position as a leading ATM network.

BancNet is committed at making banking more convenient than ever.

Villanueva assures, "BancNet realizes that the network should always be in the process of expanding innovations. We are mission bound to explore partnerships aimed at fulfilling our mandate, not only for our member banks, but more importantly to the cardholders we are beholden to."

Today, BancNet's presence may just be predominantly in the Philippines. But tomorrow, BancNet looks at connecting with the rest of the world.

> BancNet is committed at making banking more convenient than ever.

BancNet
中国银联
CHINA UNIONPAY
Signing of
ACQUIRING AGREEMENT

BANCNET SIGNING AGREEMENT WITH CHINA UNIONPAY
From left: Francisco M. Caparros Jr., BancNet president; Angelito M. Villanueva, BancNet chair; Liu Yongchuan, China UnionPay vice chair; and . Wei Zhihong, China UnionPay manager.

Executive Forum

THE FOCAL event of BancNet's 15th Anniversary celebration is the 2005 Executive Forum at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati. BancNet invited prominent speakers from the banking, telecommunications and public sectors to expound on the theme of "Expanding Innovations in e-Banking."

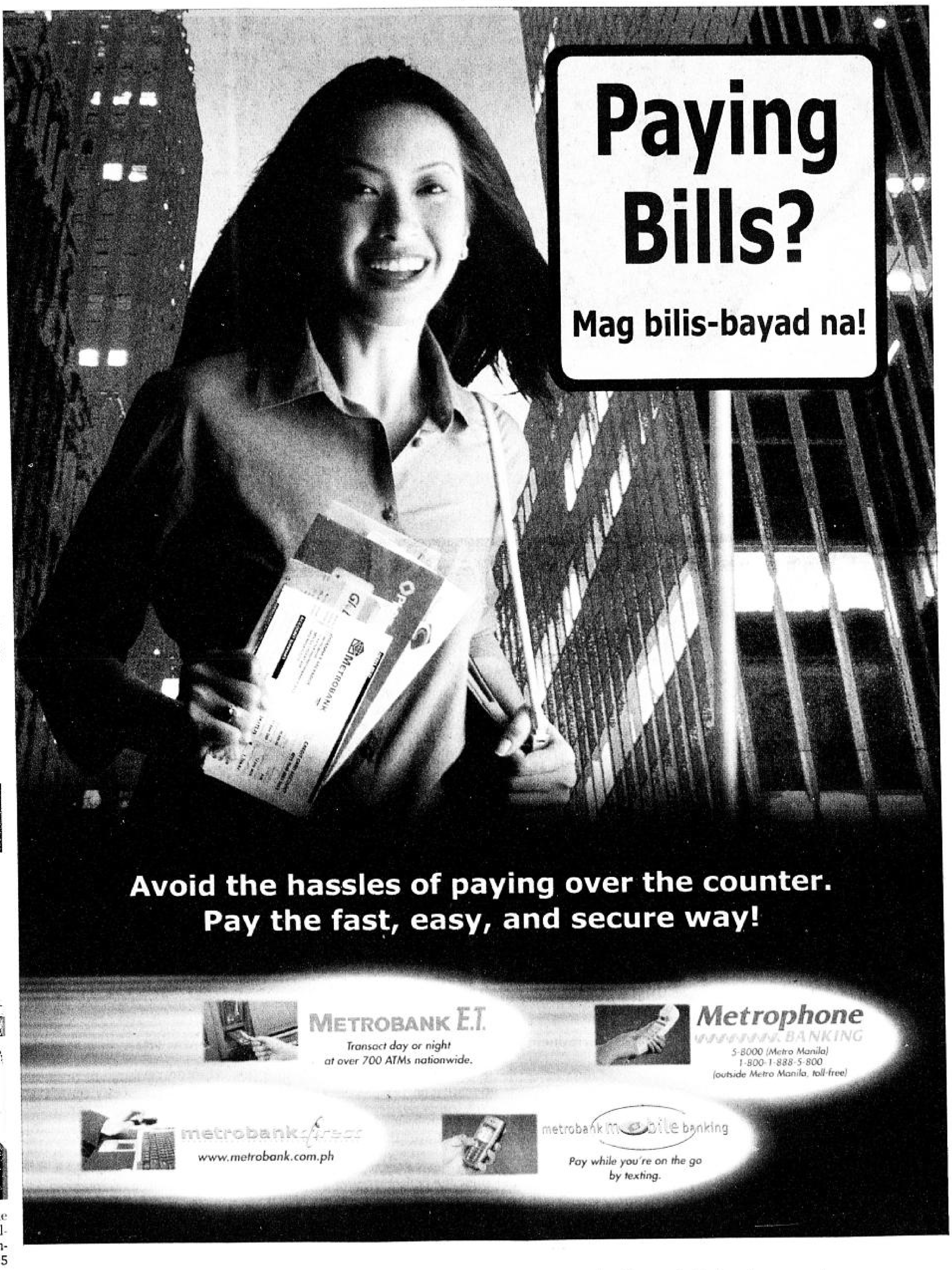
The Forum's keynote speaker is the new Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. who will share policy directions of his administration.

The honorable Senator Ramon B. Magasaysay Jr. will highlight recent developments in e-Commerce implementation from the perspective of a co-author of the e-Commerce Law.

Sandeep Deobhakta, general manager - Platinum Division of Shinsei Bank of Japan, will share innovative best practices in banking owing to his experience in structuring the consumer delivery services. Shinsei Bank recently won the "Best retail bank in Japan 2004" and "Best Retail Banking Branch Innovation Award 2004" at the Asian Banker Excellence in Retail Financial Services 2005 Awards ceremony.

Napoleon L. Nazareno, president and CEO of PLDT and leading telecommunications provider Smart, will build on the mobile proposition as it applies to banking.

The Executive Forum therefore caps a very successful 15-year run and affords BancNet the leading-edge perspective from which to set the directions for the secure, convenient and relevant delivery of financial services in the years to come.



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When you talk of BancNet, you talk of non-stop, convenient, fast and reliable service. And who else can better prove these descriptions but the loyal clients of the network themselves.

First on the list is Jerome, a forty one-year-old chief accountant and father of two boys. A BancNet ATM cardholder since the mid-90s, Jerome admits his dependence on the network deepened when he tried using it for the first time to pay his billing charges.

"It's a lot faster and requires less effort because I don't have to waste time falling in line to withdraw cash. I discovered that when you have a BancNet ATM card, you can do your transactions directly and the amount will just be debited from your account," he says.

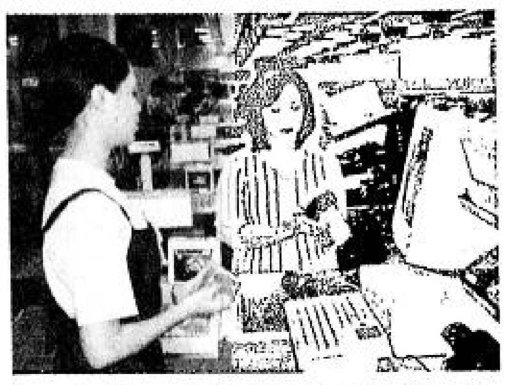
Apart from making bill payments, Jerome and wife Jean find their BancNet ATM card very reliable especially when they are in the supermarket to buy groceries. "My wife and I don't need to line up to get cash because we can just use our ATM cards at SM, Robinson's and Shopwise." narrates Jerome.

Jerome is just one of the many BancNet cardholders who found reliability and convenience in the use of the network. For its part, BancNet says its goal is to continuously entice clients to switch to cashless and paperless transactions. The question is how shall it go about it?

BancNet has been tapping the automated teller machines, the Internet and Point-of-Sale terminals to get its four million cardholders to do more cashless and paperless transactions.

BancNet Online, the first non-enrollment ATM banking and payment facility on the Internet in the Philippines, was launched in 2003 with a $1-million investment in a "multi-channel payment gateway facility." Through this service, BancNet cardholders can do a lot by using their desktop computers to pay bills, buy things, and transfer funds.

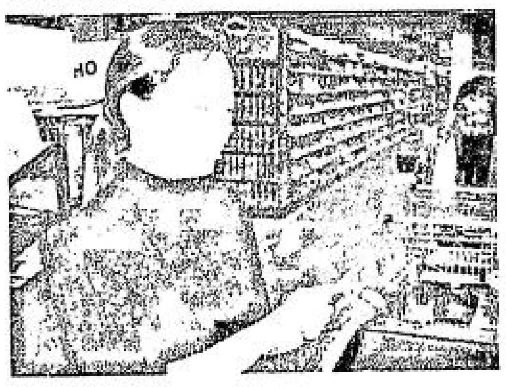
Ramon, an IT professional, is a classic example of a BancNet client who does his payment transactions and prepaid reloading for cellular phone through the Internet. "My branch of account told me about this certain BancNet service allowing cardholders to make transactions via the Internet. So I just followed the instructions and now, I find it very useful for my personal needs," he says.



He encourages other BancNet cardholders to try and do the same and be aware that there is such kind of service suitable especially for those who are so tied up with work or may be too lazy even to walk over to the nearby ATM.

BancNet admits creating awareness to the cardholders remains its biggest challenge to date. Aristeo P. Zafra Jr., senior vice president and chief operating officer of BancNet says that "Cardholders may still have some apprehensions on using their ATM card other than for cash withdrawals. So we take it upon ourselves to initiate a customer education campaign to assure everyone that our various electronic channels are safe and secure with all secret account information kept intact. We also want to emphasize that we don't charge transaction fees for most of our services, including payments and balance inquiries.

With this assurance, Zafra says that "BancNet will continuously explore and utilize other hand-held devices for banking services. We want to give our clients a seamless cardholder experience by making sure that they can do their banking transactions in any delivery channel of their choice and still get the same high quality of service."



This good news would surely benefit Hannah, a young advertising executive based in Ortigas. A certified "techie", she doesn't leave the house without her PDA and mobile phone. And thanks to her BancNet ATM card, she was able to indulge in her shopping binges by being able to pay for the iPod she craved for. "I'm always on the go with the kind of job that I have. Believe it or not, sometimes, I don't have the luxury of time to go to the bank and withdraw some cash. And this is when BancNet's debit shopping becomes handy," relates Hannah.

BancNet has truly revolutionized the uses for the ATM card. Even as the network continually introduces new services, cardholders are discovering the many ways they can maximize the features of their ATM card. For Jerome and wife Jean, Ramon and Hannah, their BancNet ATM card serves as their electronic wallet and a ready substitute for cash.

Convenience, speed and reliability - these are reasons why these BancNet users are all ready to encourage other cardholders with the same lifestyle that dictates "i-BancNet mo!"

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4. Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation
5. Security Bank Corporation

OTHER CO-EQUAL MEMBERS

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8. Chinatrust Commercial Bank
9. Citibank, N.A.
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11. Manila Banking Corporation
12. Merchants Bank
13. Philippine Bank of Communications
14. Philtrust Bank
15. Standard Chartered Bank
16. United Overseas Bank

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17. East West Bank
18. Philippine Savings Bank
19. Planters Development Bank
20. RCBC Savings Bank

ALLIANCE MEMBERS

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23. Citystate Savings Bank
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2687, Series of 2005

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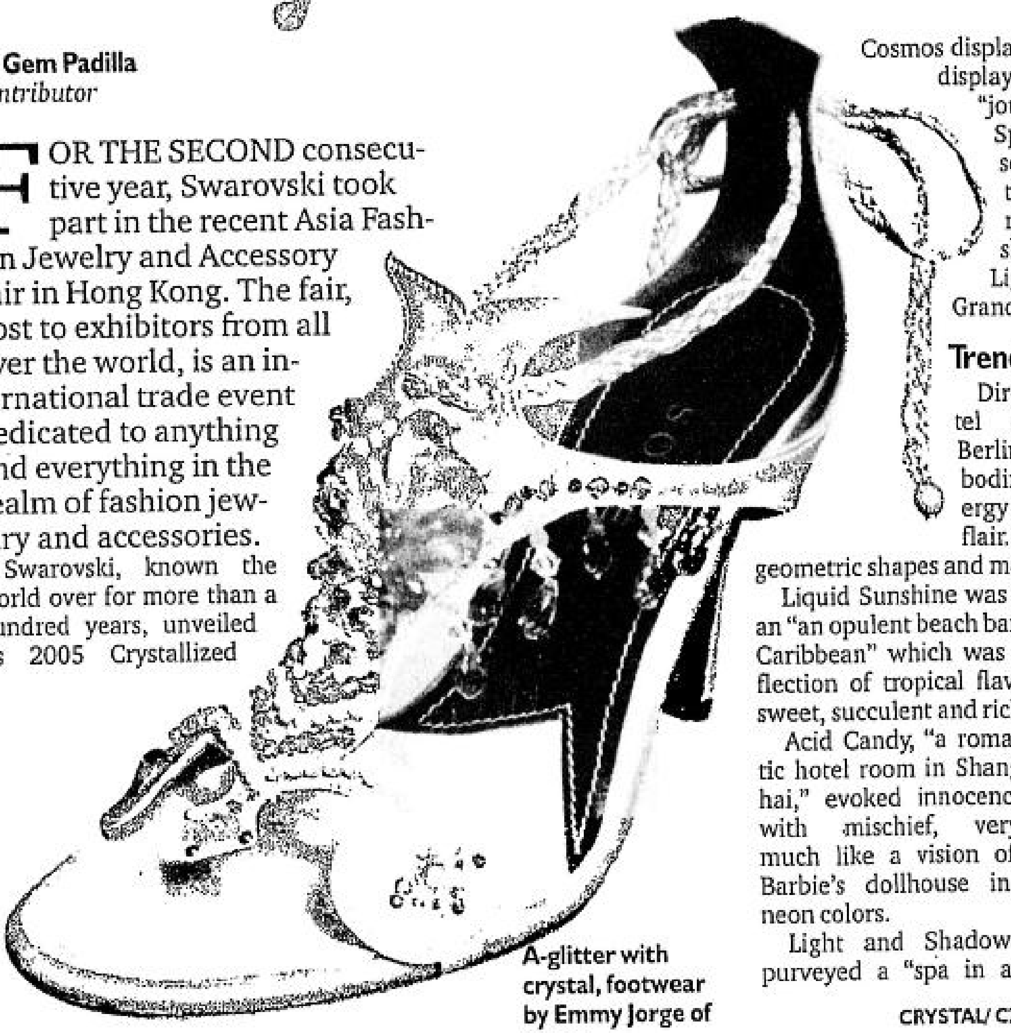
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ● TUESDAY FITNESS ● WEDNESDAY 2BU ● THURSDAY FO FASHION & BEAUTY

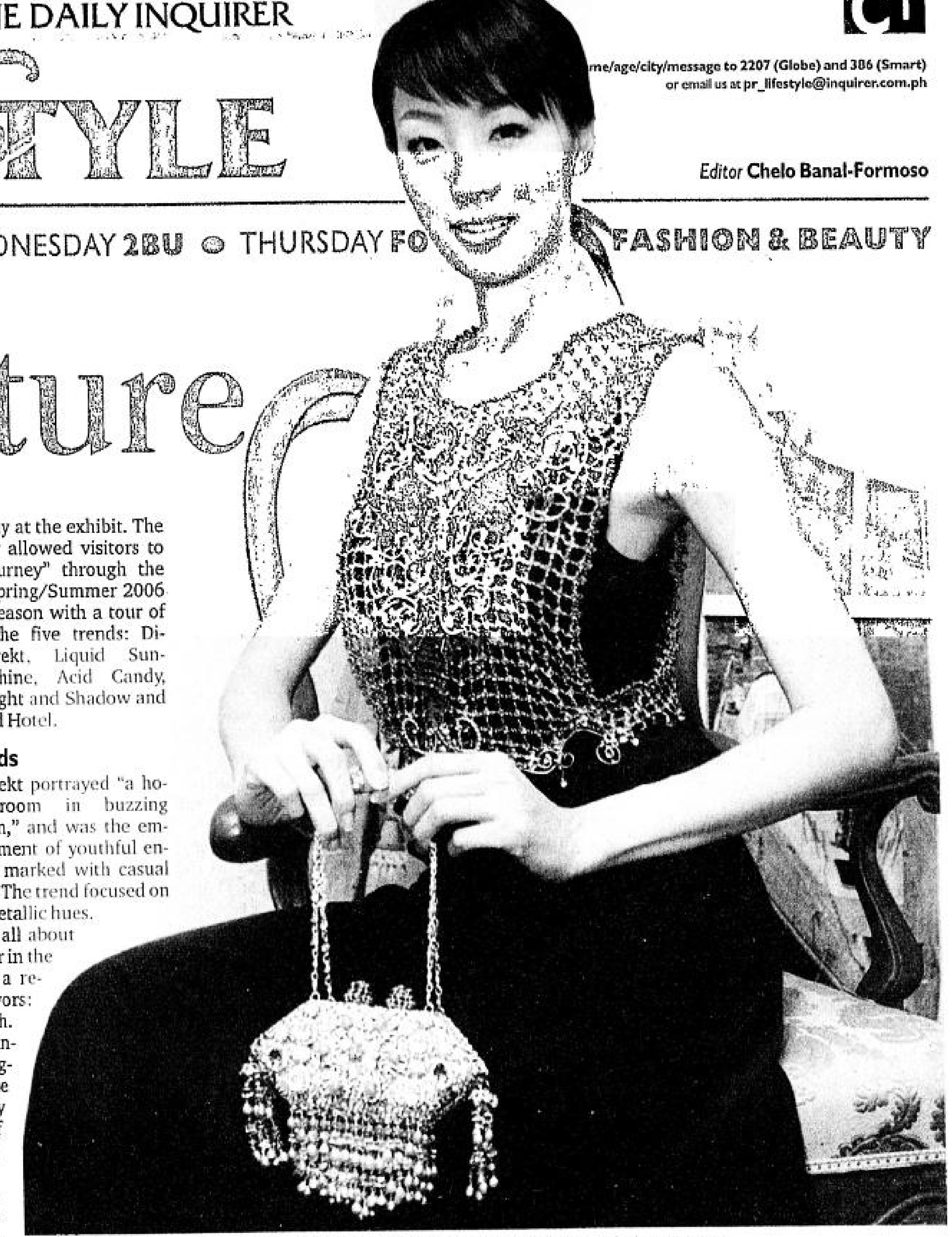
IT'S haute couture week in Paris! /E1

Crystal future

By Gem Padilla
Contributor



A-glitter with crystal, footwear by Emmy Jorge of Solea



GRAND Hotel trend brings back the elegance, glamour and decadence of a bygone era

FOR THE SECOND consecutive year, Swarovski took part in the recent Asia Fashion Jewelry and Accessory Fair in Hong Kong. The fair, host to exhibitors from all over the world, is an international trade event dedicated to anything and everything in the realm of fashion jewelry and accessories.

Swarovski, known the world over for more than a hundred years, unveiled its 2005 Crystallized Cosmos display at the exhibit. The display allowed visitors to "journey" through the Spring/Summer 2006 season with a tour of the five trends: Direkt, Liquid Sunshine, Acid Candy, Light and Shadow and Grand Hotel.

Trends

Direkt portrayed "a hotel room in buzzing Berlin," and was the embodiment of youthful energy marked with casual flair. The trend focused on geometric shapes and metallic hues.

Liquid Sunshine was all about an "an opulent beach bar in the Caribbean" which was a reflection of tropical flavors: sweet, succulent and rich.

Acid Candy, "a romantic hotel room in Shanghai," evoked innocence with mischief, very much like a vision of Barbie's dollhouse in neon colors.

Light and Shadow purveyed a "spa in a

CRYSTAL/ C2

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*dine-in price, exclusive of 10% service charge.
Per DTI-NCR permit No. 1686, Series of 2005

FAIRYLAND

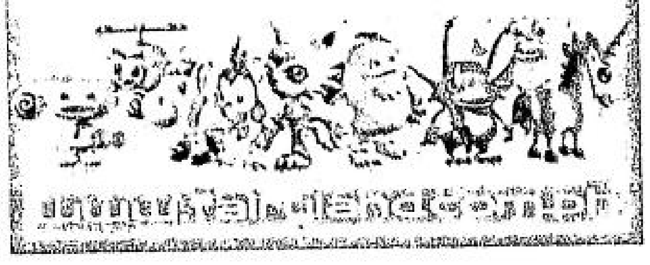
Fairyland the Online Game

Fairyland is a great massively multiplayer online game which places players in control of wonderful characters in a fantastic virtual world. Fairyland requires strategizing and provides an opportunity for great role playing. There are numerous goals to achieve in Fairyland with its flexible character building features. Its main feature, however, is its unique pet system. Other features the game boasts of include the ability to display emotions, its numerous missions and quests, a personal banking system, interesting working skills and a well developed trading system.

Fairyland is also played in China, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, USA and Europe.

The Fairyland Ultimate Online Package is a twin CD product including the basic Fairyland game client together with many expansion patches. It includes two accounts with 15 hours of game time each, this game time can be used after Pay-to-Play commences.

In 2004, Fairyland won best online game awards in Taiwan, Japan and the Philippines.



Crystal future

From page C1

luxury African reserve lodge" approach. It had balance and harmony in colors, shapes and atmospheres by blending alabaster and jets with khakis and silk.

Grand Hotel's "1920's dinner for two on the French Riviera" setting set about recapturing the elegance, glamour and decadence of a bygone era.

Founded by Daniel Swarovski at the end of the 19th century, Swarovski is widely recognized for its precision cut crystals that sparkle like diamonds. Several generations of fashion's best have used Swarovski to embellish their creations, from industry legends Coco Chanel and Elsa Schiaparelli to current and rising stars Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, Zac Posen and Julien Macdonald.

This year, Swarovski's participation in the Asia Fashion Jewelry and Accessory Fair featured interpretations by various designers from different parts of the globe. The Philippines was more than adequately represented with creations from Ciara Marasigan, Solea, Avatar Accessories and Rene Coster dispersed within the five themes.

ACID Candy trend is much like a vision of Barbie's dollhouse in neon colors

LIQUID Sunshine trend is a reflection of sweet tropical flavors.

LIGHT and Shadow trend blends alabaster and jets with khakis and silk

LIQUID Sunshine

Calling all fashion design students

ASPIRING fashion students, aged 17-24, are invited to apply for the Ben Farrales Foundation Scholarship for a one-year course in fashion designing at Slim's Fashion and Arts School.

Applications will be available on July 20 at the Ben Farrales Shop, 1902 M. Adriatico St., Malate, near the Remedios Circle. Subjects covered by the one-year course are: Free Hand Drawing, Art Appreciation, Color Theory, Fashion Sketching, Apparel Design, Anatomy, Fabric Study and Rendering, History of Arts and Costume and Own Creation.

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Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 3173 Series of 2005

Avant: 2/F Greenbelt 4 **Complink:** Parksquare1, Basement - Shangri - La Mall, 3/F Robinson's Galleria, 4/F Cyberzone – SM Megamall, Cyberzone - SM Southmall, G/F Cyberzone SM North EDSA, SM Bacoor **Electroworld:** Parksquare 1, Alabang Town Center, G/F SM North EDSA, G/F Greenbelt1, 4/F Cyberzone - SM Megamall **E-Hub:** 2/F Cybermall - Eastwood City, 3/F Alabang Town Center **Globotel:** G/F Greenbelt 1, 4/F Market! Market!, 2/F Cybermall - Eastwood City **Mobile 1:** Parksquare 1, Basement Level - Podium, 2/F Rustan's Makati, G/F Rustan's Alabang Town Center **palmOne podCentral:** 3/F Digital Exchage - Glorietta 3 **Silicon Valley:** 4/F Cyberzone – SM Megamall, Parksquare1, G/F Cyberzone SM North EDSA, 3/F Alabang Town Center, 2/F SM Southmall, SM Pampanga

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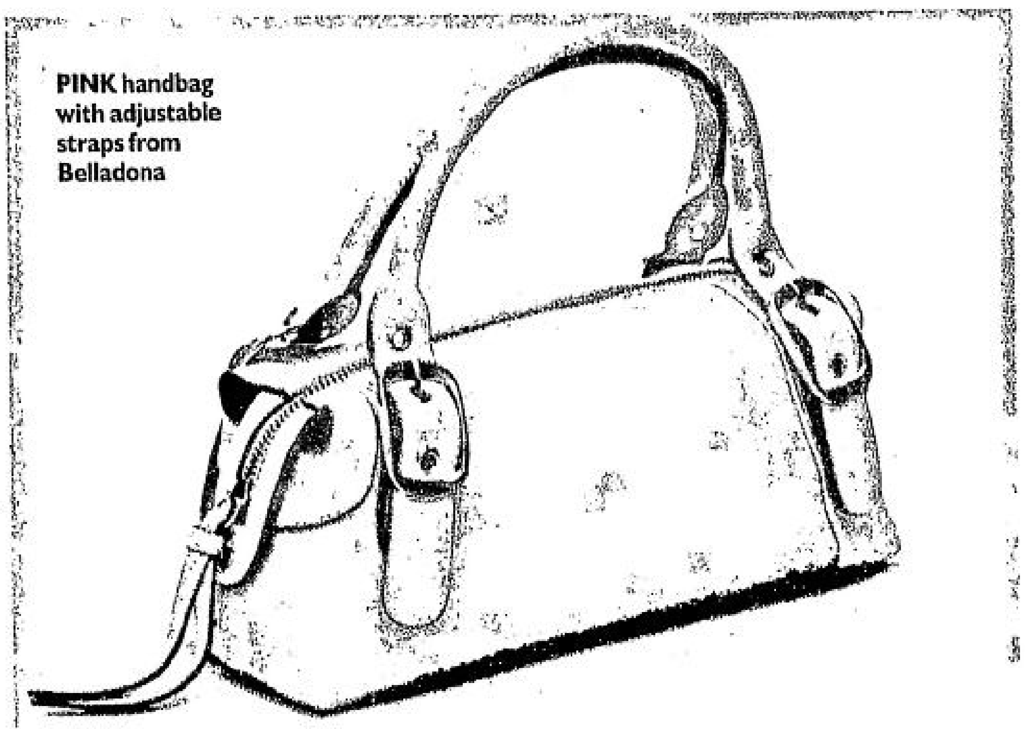


PINK handbag with adjustable straps from Belladona

Pretty bags for pretty women

YELLOW drawstring bag with pink stitch accents

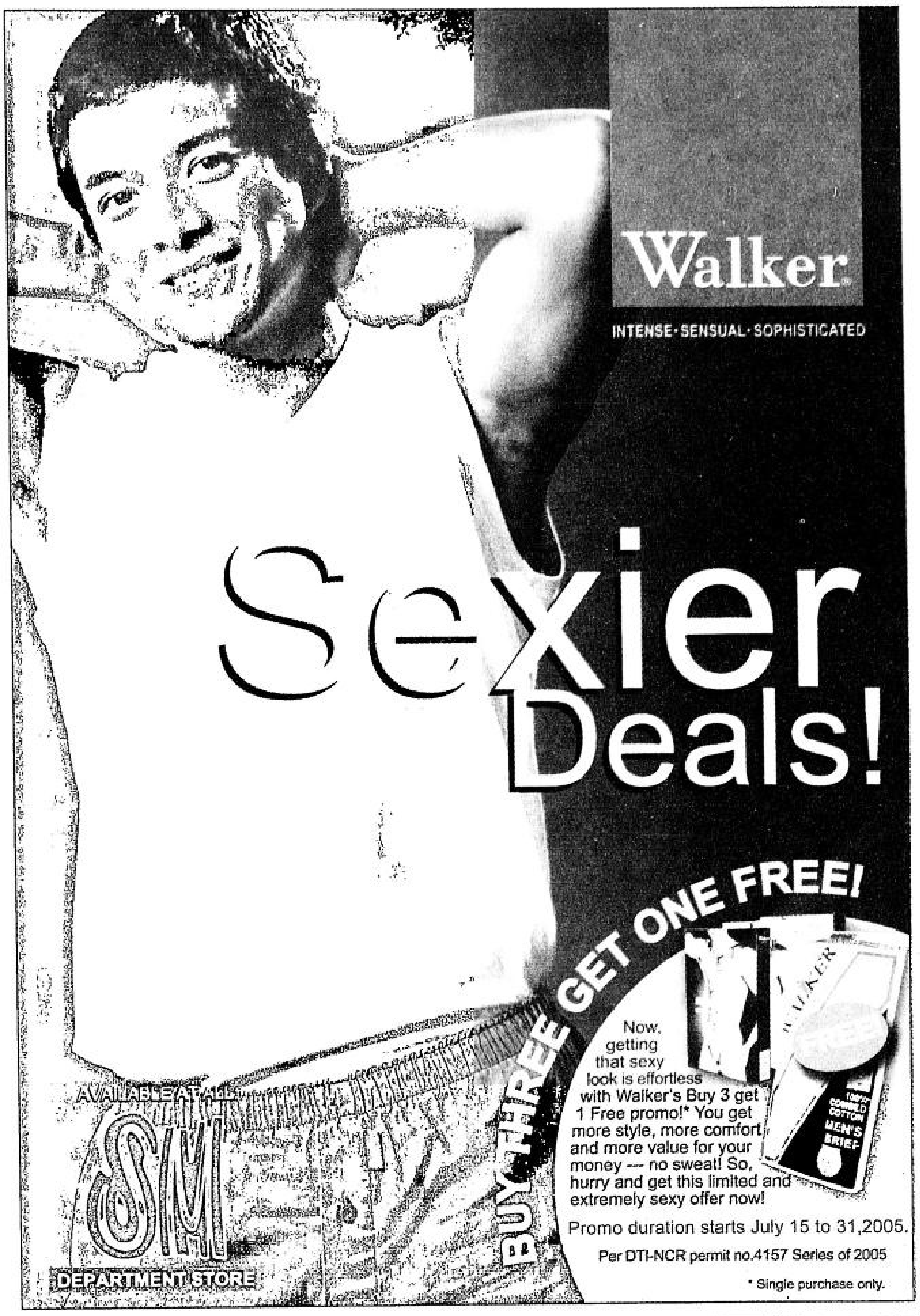
SM offers new hip handbags in bright colors, supple shapes and trendy styles.

Belladona, a brand exclusively available at SM, leads the pack with bags designed for the fashionista. Lily Chua says their bags are inspired by the latest trends abroad and try to live up to their brand name, which means beautiful lady in Italian. She adds Belladona products are very affordable.

Chua says their in-house designers try to merge the latest styles abroad with the tastes of the local market. In addition to the trendy line, the label also has items for those who prefer classic styles. The company, she says, puts the focus on design and quality.

Belladona's latest collection offers bags in several colors—red, fuchsia and yellow, among others. Items in neutral shades come in distinctive shapes.

Belladona products are available exclusively at the ladies bags department of SM stores in Ortigas, Makati and Las Piñas.



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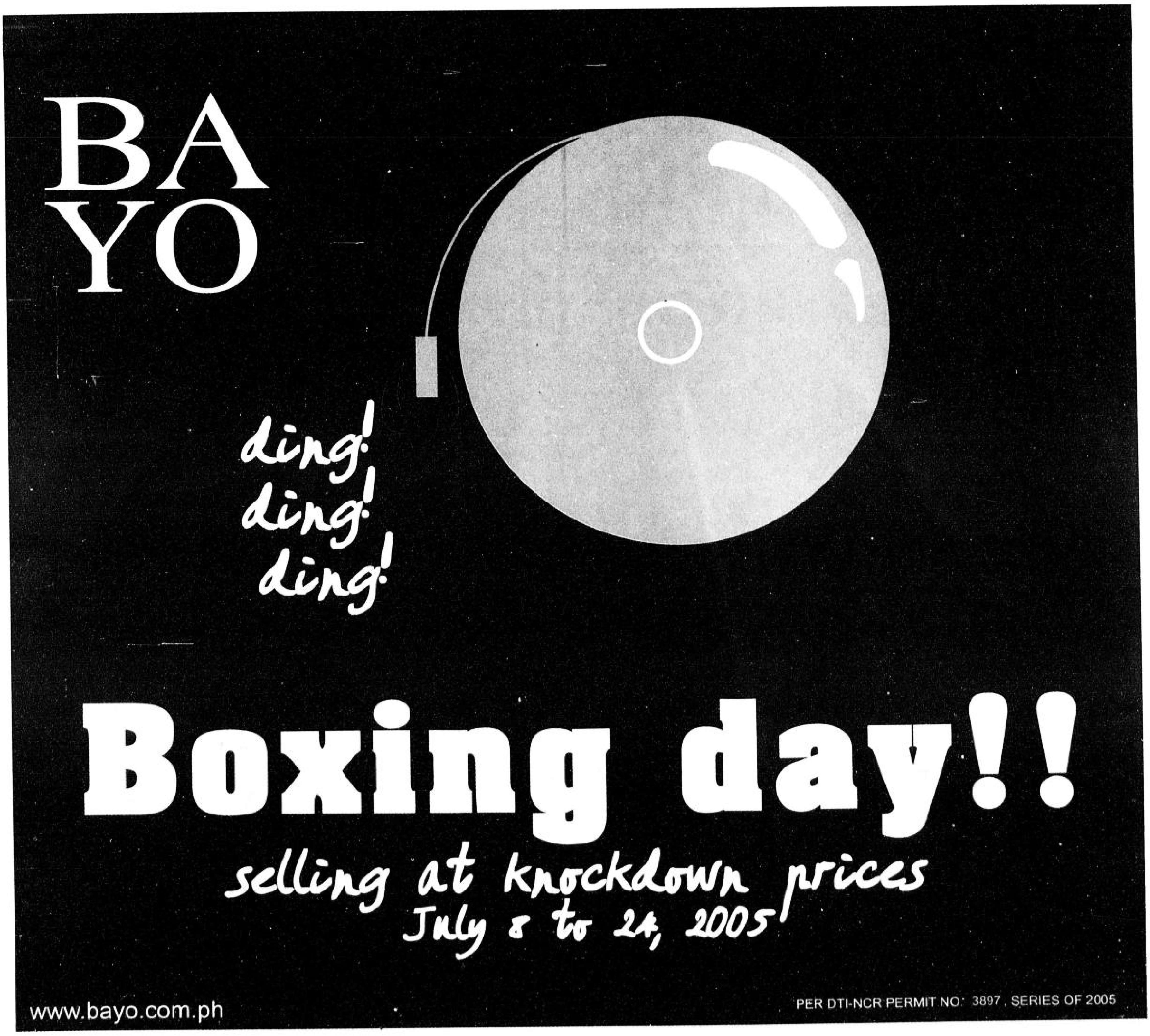

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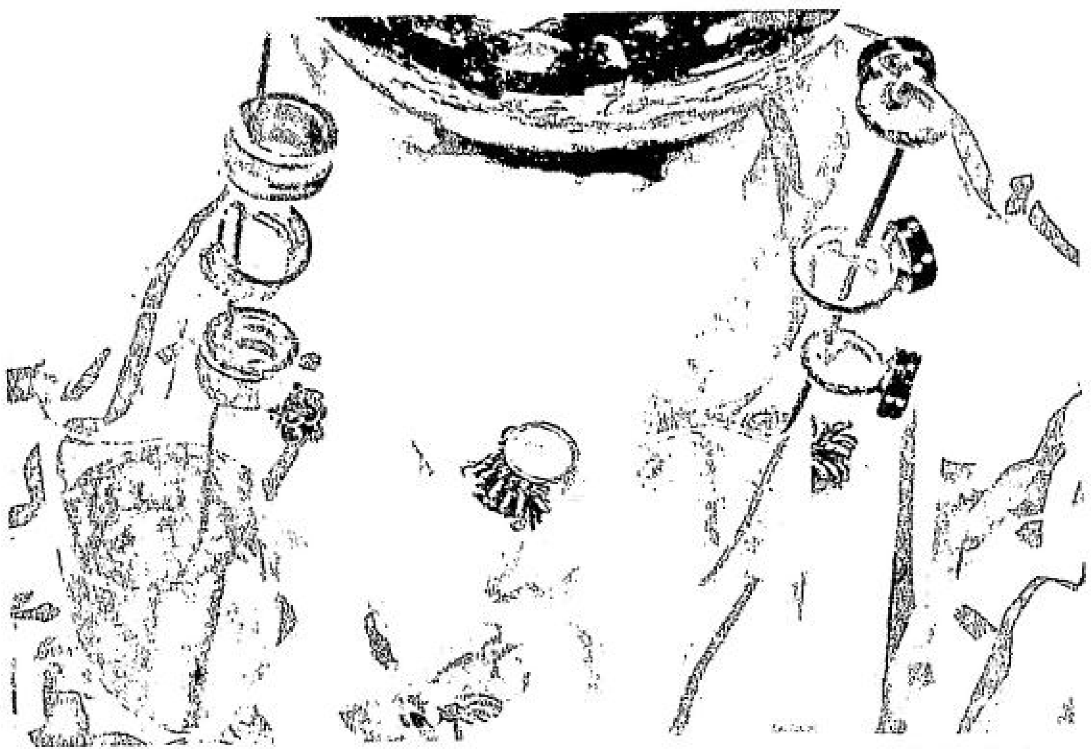
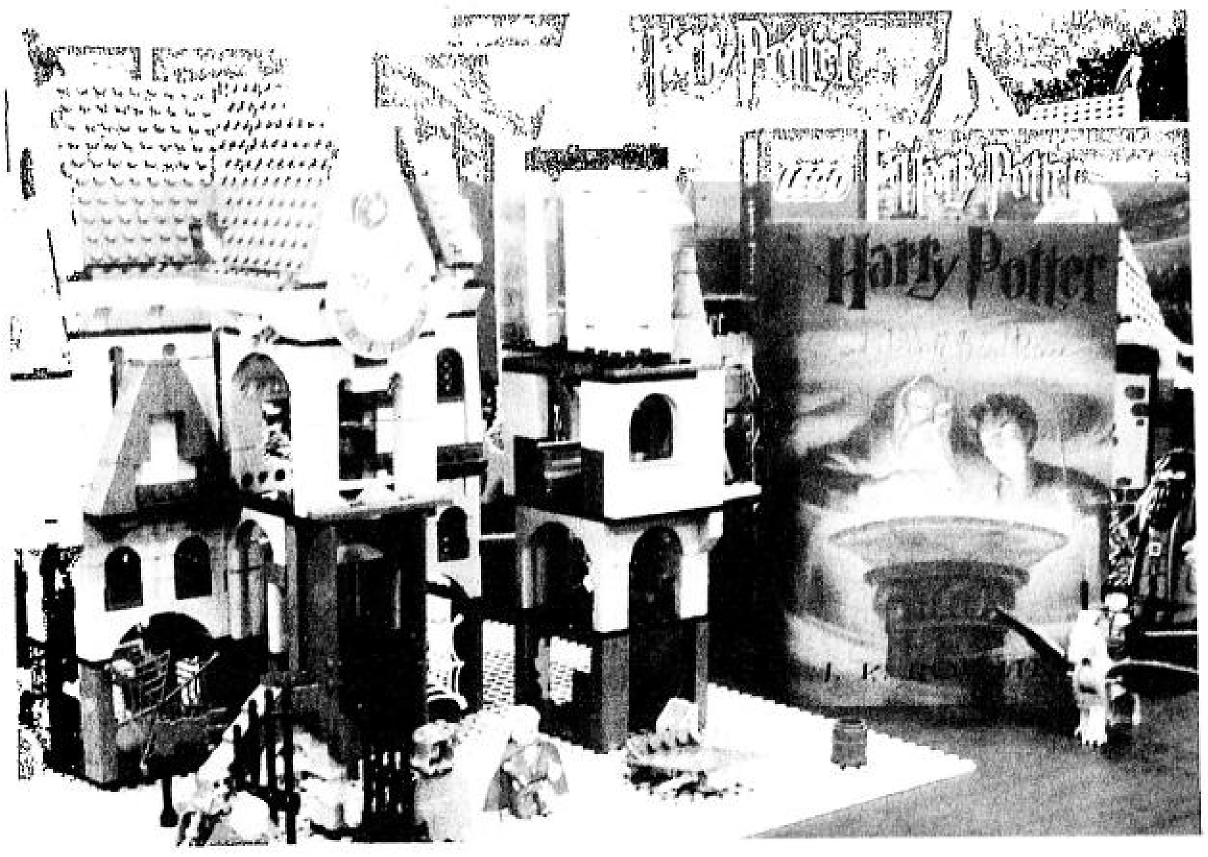




JULY SALE. Buy a Harry Potter Lego set (right) at 25 percent off and get a copy of J. K. Rowling's much-anticipated "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" at a 10-percent discount at Gift Gate in Glorietta 2 Ayala Center, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, SM City, SM Manila, and Robinsons Ermita. Swatch Bijoux rings are marked down at Gift Gate and Swatch at Ayala Center Makati.

Hurry for Harry— it's a sale!

FASTER than you can say Quidditch, the prices are falling at Gift Gate's "Baba Baba Sale" starting today until the end of July.

If you didn't reserve the new "Harry Potter" book, you can still be one of the first to own it, thanks to this irresistible offer from Gift Gate. Just purchase a Lego Harry Potter set and get "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" at a 10 percent discount.

Even better, all Lego Harry Potter sets are on sale at 25 percent off! The promo starts tomorrow at the following Gift Gate stores: Glorietta 2 Ayala Center, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, SM City, SM Manila and Robinsons Ermita.

But the fun doesn't stop there. Swing by Gift Gate and Swatch at Ayala Center Makati for a free cocktail with every purchase of a Swatch Bijoux ring. The colorful, funky rings are marked down to P250-750.

Start your holiday shopping early at Gift Gate. Segue, Sisley and United Colors of Benetton bags also go on sale. Russ and Sanrio 100-Peso Giveaway Bags are filled with everything from photo frames, candles, and stuffed toys to Hello Kitty stamps, bags, sticker sets, even cellphone accessories.

Gift Gate's "Baba Baba Sale" runs from July 15-31 or while supplies last at all Gift Gate stores in Metro Manila and SM City Cebu. Segue, Sisley, and United Colors of Benetton are available at Gift Gate and Segue in SM Megamall.

Stores give mid-year discounts

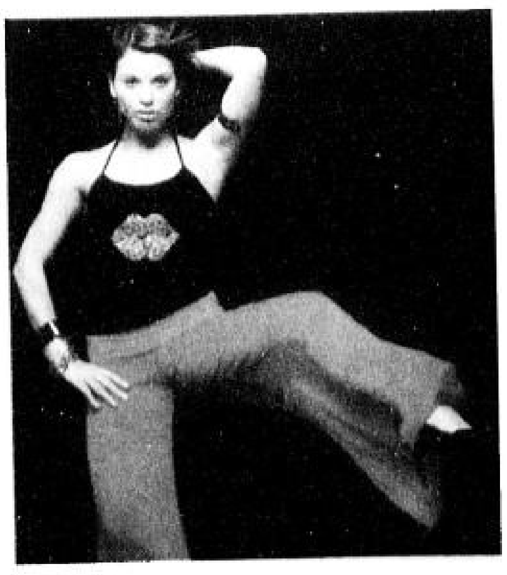
FREEWAY and Ensembles are holding a mid-year sale until July 31.

Freeway offers up to 50-percent off on sale items, with 15-percent off on cash and 10-percent off on credit card purchases of all regular items (except SM Batangas, SM Lucena, SM Iloilo, Ayala Center Cebu, Limkethai Mall CDO and Chimes Mall Davao).

Ensembles offers 10-percent off on all regular items and up to 80-percent off on sale items.

Freeway has outlets in Glorietta 1, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu; Robinson's Galleria, Ermita, Metro East and Novaliches; SM Pampanga, SM in Marilao, North Edsa, Dasmariñas, Bacoor, Batangas, Southmall, Sucat, Lucena, Bicutan, Megamall, Iloilo and Fairview; Festival Supermall Alabang, Pavilion Sta. Rosa, Abanao Square Baguio, Ali Mall, Market! Market!-The Fort, Edsa Central Mall, Limkethai Mall Cagayan de Oro, Chimes Mall-Davao.

Ensembles is located in Glorietta 1, SM Megamall, Robinson's Galleria. Robinson's Ermita, Alabang Town Center, Festival Supermall Alabang, Eastwood City Walk 2-Libis, SM Bicutan, SM Marilao and SM Batangas.



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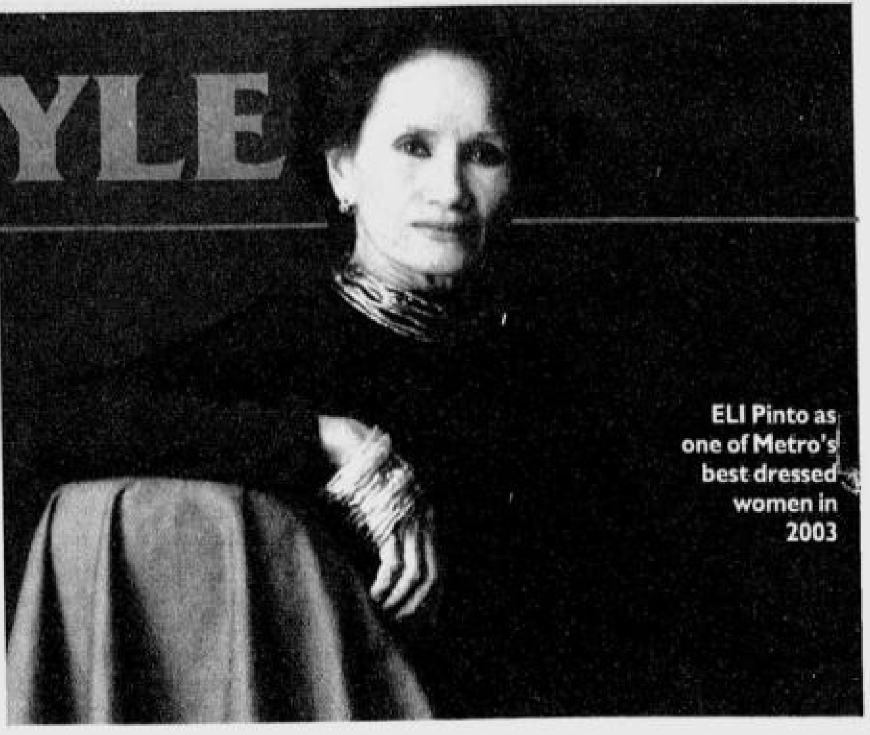
Contemporary Philippine design loses a pillar



ELI Pinto as one of Metro's best dressed women in 2003

Eli Pinto and Movement 8 carved a specialty niche for Pinoy design in the world market

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

YES, she's going too soon," Budji agreed as we sat down to dinner Wednesday night last week. **Eli Pinto** lay in the hospital, dying, having suffered a stroke that Monday.

Budji Layug, **Tes Pasola** and **Tony Gonzales**—all of Movement 8—with Eli's family and Citem colleagues had just been at her bedside. The next day at noon Eli passed away.

A pillar of contemporary Philippine design was gone too soon.

The head of Citem (Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions) until retirement barely three years ago, Eli Pinto had been relentlessly and ingeniously promoting and steering Philippine design on the world market, particularly furniture and home design. Movement 8—a select group of furniture, home and home accessory designers—is now a prestigious international brand lauded, if not copied, by other Asian countries.

Led by Budji, **Kenneth Cobonpue**, **Ann Pamintuan** and Tony Gonzales, the group has been winning international design awards. Movement 8 designs have been featured in contemporary design books, journals and magazines. **Milo Naval**, **Luisa Robinson**, **Renato Vidal**, who today complete the Movement, have found a specialty niche on the world market.

Even the cynics would agree that Movement 8 and Citem placed the Philippines on the world design map, this even as the country's image spiraled down to notoriety because of messy politics and corruption.

In major design and trade expositions abroad—from Milan to New York—the Citem booth of Movement 8 was not only a crowd drawer but also an award winner, such as in New York in 2001 where it won the Editors' Award in the International Contemporary Furniture Fair.

"We shall miss Eli, those days and nights she'd be with us as we set up our booth, with us all the way," Budji told the crowd that gathered at Eli's wake last Sunday. The short speech of the usually reticent Budji masked the sadness and loss the design world felt.

In the same way that it was with her former boss, **Mina Gabor**, who founded Citem, nothing was impossible for Eli. Everything was doable, by sheer will and zeal. To begin with, bringing together artists with disparate temperaments, agenda and perspectives was no mean task. But she was able to do it.

Her initial years at Citem were devoted to marketing Philippine fashions and fashion designers abroad, following the initiatives set by Mina. Those efforts, however, weren't as successful as Citem's mission on furniture and home designs. Manila F.A.M.E. was the baby of Citem under Mina and Eli.

As Budji and other designers said, Eli let them fly to the zenith of their creativity. What helped was that Eli herself was an artist. She had full meeting of minds and hearts with artists like Budji. She and Budji must have been soul mates in art.

Stylish

Not only was Eli one of Manila's most stylish women whose taste was informed and impeccable, she was also an astute and insatiable student of design. A graduate of Parsons School of Design in New York, she started her career here in design and advertising.

Mina recalled that Eli was even a photography model of Mina's husband, the late **Joe Gabor**, a foremost photographer then.

Budji recalls the first time he saw Eli. "I was then 13 or 14 years old, in the design office of Cancio (Budji's mom **Herminia** is a Cancio), and in walked this very stylish woman. That turned out to be Eli. Little did I know that decades later she'd get me to be Citem consultant."

Eli and Budji went places figuratively and literally—from Paris to Armenia. Theirs was a wandering mind and an unerring eye for design. I myself experienced that whenever I traveled with the group. Eli and Budji would have a running commentary on a landscape, a chair or a building.

From her trips Eli would bring home books, notes, clippings on design to keep media up to date. I learned a lot about design from her.

In New York, at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, while listening to chair designer

CONTEMPORARY/ D2

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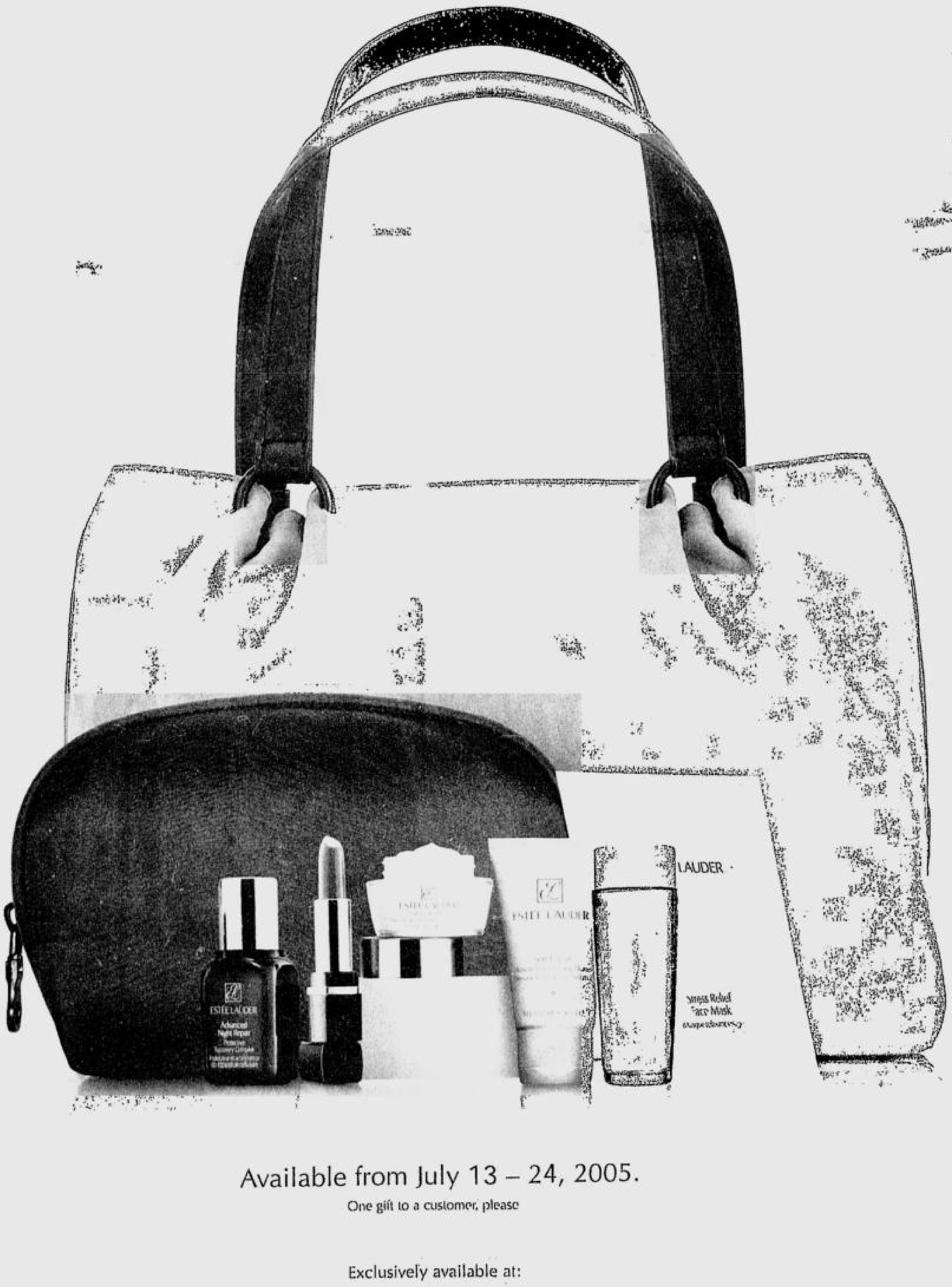

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4041, Series of 2005.

BUDJI LAYUG
KENNETH COBONPUE
MILO NAVAL
TES PASOLA

MOVEMENT 8 with Eli Pinto-Mansor (seated, front) showing off their Editors' Award at the International Contemporary Furniture fair held at Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York, 2001. Beside Eli, seated up front, is Budji Layug. From left, Milo Naval, Ann Pamintuan, Tes Pasola, Clayton Tugonon, Renato Vidal, Kenneth Cobonpue and Luisa Robinson

Contemporary Philippine design . . .

From page D1

Ross Lovegrove's lecture, Eli steered me in the room toward a man in jeans and told me to stand beside him. In no time I was saying hello to him. Later, I asked Eli who the man was. He turned out to be **Frank Gehry**, an icon of contemporary design and architecture, famous, of course, for his design of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain.

No matter her stint and exposure abroad, Eli had passion for what is Filipino. Any indigenous material, to her, was a gem the Filipino designer could transform and which deserved a world audience. The native material could be given the global contemporary design idiom. This was what cemented her ties to artists like the Movement 8.

Her commitment to Philippine design was absolute. She herself could design, tinker with, and wear Philippine material and make it seem world-class. This was because she had taste, making her one of the best-dressed women of all time. She could wear a simple black shift with a Murano glass necklace or with a Philippine tribal belt. She could make a simple wicker bag stand out just by wrapping it in a bright floral scarf.

Proof of her impeccable style was that she didn't need luxury brands to exude it. She was no slave to brands—rare in this day and age. Instead, she was a discoverer of exquisite Philippine material.

Budji, the Movement 8, the Citem staff, with Eli's family led by her sister **Sonia Ner** (former head of Ayala Museum), made sure Eli's wake was reflective of her style. Indeed, guests noted that they had not seen a more elegant arrangement of the chapel than the Santuario had last weekend.

A black panel was the backdrop to the black console displaying the simple rectangular box containing Eli's ashes. The box was designed by artist **Al Caronan**. Beside it was Eli's black-and-white portrait.

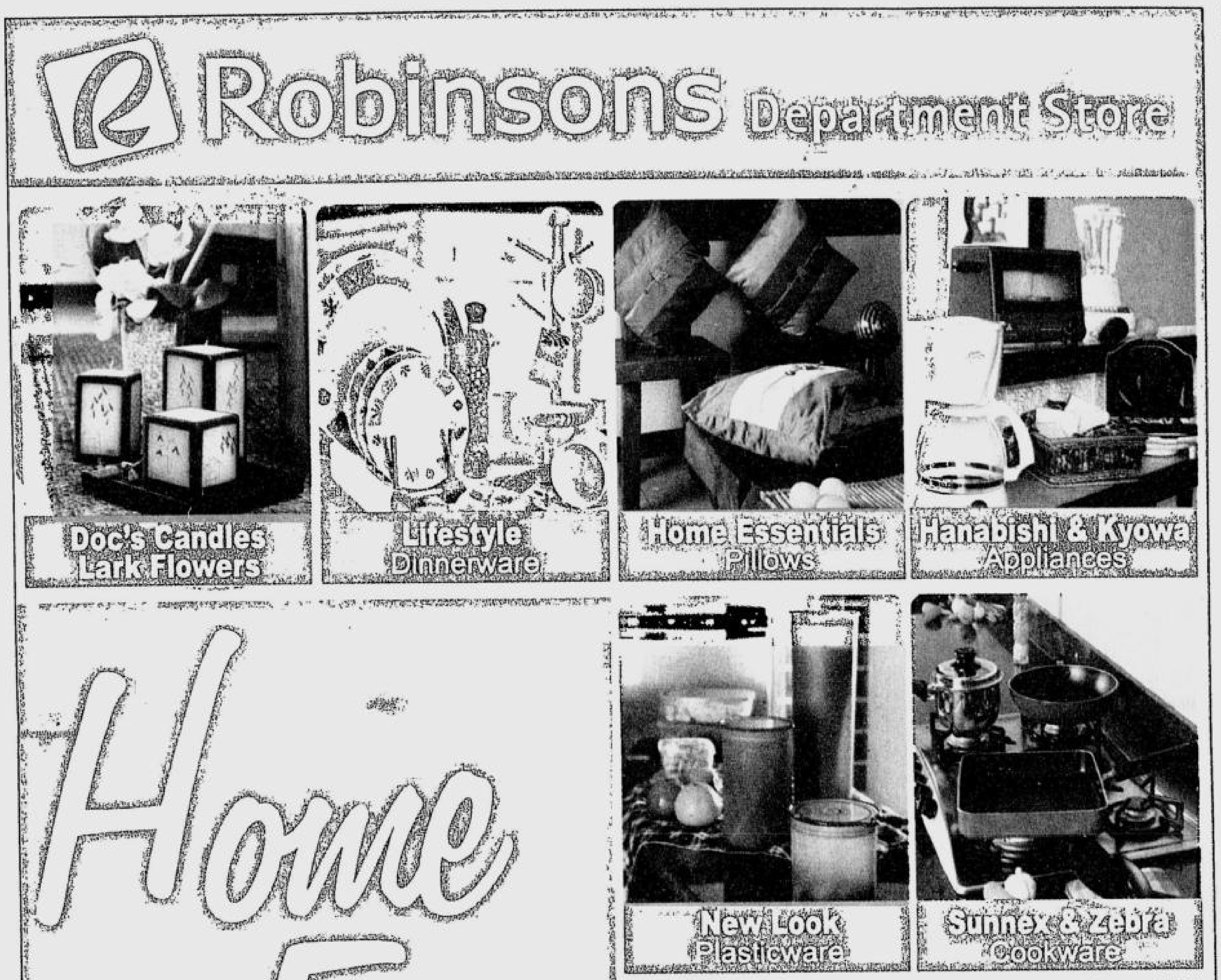
Behind the console were huge paper candelabras by Tony Gonzales. The console was flanked by giant planters of white liliums and roses, basking in white light. The abaca-rope planters were designed by Milo.

On two sides of the chapel were Eli's portraits on easel stands, one of them painted by Budji years ago.

Eli left behind husband **Eli (Mansor**, known in the advertising circuit himself) and son **Niko**, now a professional golfer.

Sonia, no matter how close she was to her sister, seemed happy to let go of Eli into a place "where she could dance, dance and dance."

Eli Pinto, a woman of impeccable style and a public servant with a sense of mission, served her country well.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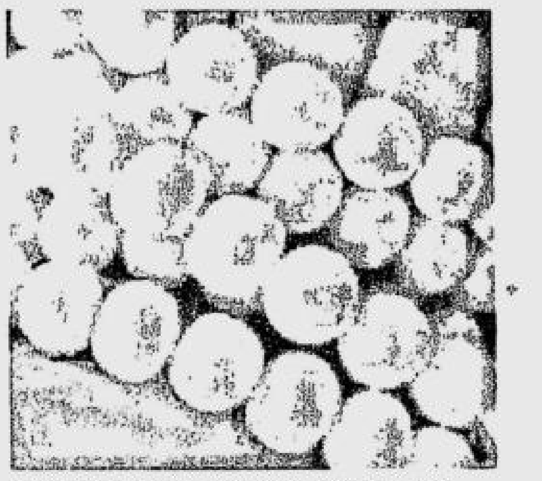


SNOW-WHITE 8- to 9-mm potato pearls

How to spot a genuine pearl

TODAY, pearls are everywhere. But do you know how to spot genuine pearls?

Pearls are of a better quality when they are usually large in size, round in shape, and deep and mellow in luster and in color. To make sure your pearls are not fake, rub them on your teeth. Real pearls feel rough and grainy. Fake pearls are smooth and glassy.

Like any other valuable jewelry, pearls need constant care and attention. Here are some dos and don'ts on pearl care.

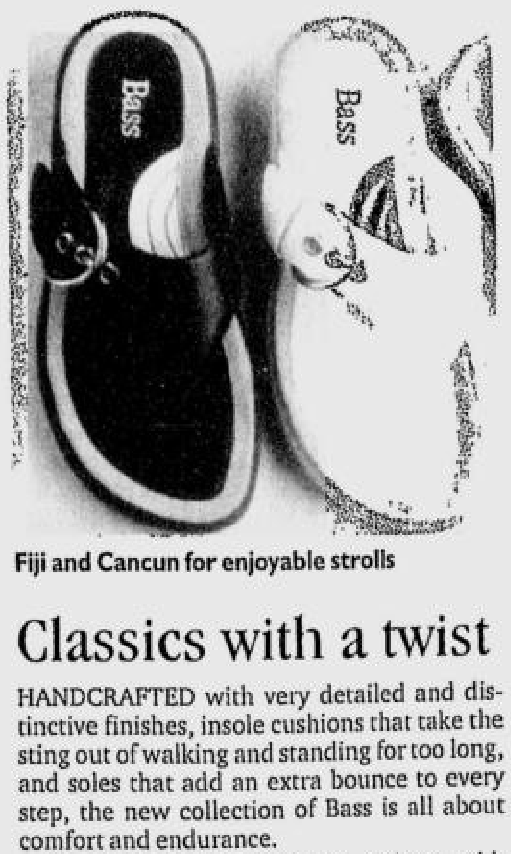
Don'ts

- Don't use any commercial jewelry cleaner that contains ammonia, as this will cause deterioration in the pearl's quality.
- Don't steam-clean pearls. Heat can harm them.
- Don't use detergents, bleaches, powdered cleaners, baking soda on pearls.
- Don't use toothbrush, scouring pad or abrasive materials to clean pearls, as they can scratch the surface.

Do's

- Wash pearls in water and a mild soap.
- Pearls are organic and they need to "breathe," so just store them in a soft satin or velvet pouch.
- Store them away from sunlight and dry heat.
- Pearls, when exposed to perspiration, dim in luster. For better pearl care, just wipe them off with a soft cloth or chamois, which may be dry or damp.

For a wide variety of pearls and precious stones, visit The Jewelry Fair at 2/L Carousel Court of Festival Supermall, Alabang, on July 18-28, or the Precious Pearl Village at the ground level. Call 8503514.



Fiji and Cancun for enjoyable strolls

Classics with a twist

HANDCRAFTED with very detailed and distinctive finishes, insole cushions that take the sting out of walking and standing for too long, and soles that add an extra bounce to every step, the new collection of Bass is all about comfort and endurance.

To match your beach get-up, Jackson, with its bright swimsuit colors, is perfect. Fiji and Cancun are for those who enjoy strolling.

Bass is exclusively distributed by Store Specialists, Inc., with branches at Glorietta 3, Powerplant Mall, Alabang Town Center, Shangri-La Plaza, Robinson's Galleria, Robinson's Manila, Festival Supermall, The Podium, Rustan's Makati, Gateway Mall, Ayala Cebu and SM Baguio.

THE JOCKS. On Mike: crystal-blue crew tee (P369), mid-blue Denimlab jeans (P799); on Dawn: white ringer tee; on Ala: pink reversible dress (P899); pink biker's cap (P229); on Matteo: bright-green ringer tee (P399); mid-blue Denimlab jeans (P799), white biker's cap (P229)

THE CAMPUS SWEETHEARTS. On Mike: parakeet-green ringer tee (P399); mid-Denimlab jeans (P799); on Dawn: Blue ringer tee (P299); pink boot-cut convertible, (P679); on Ala: Malibu-blue tank top (P329); lavender floral pillow (P289); on Matteo: white ringer tee (P399), mid-Denimlab jeans (P799)

Different folks, different strokes

SCHOOL is generally exciting for the many types of personalities you encounter in the campus. You deal with them everyday. Heck, you could be one of them. Here are a few guidelines on how to chin up, fix your Penshoppe Denimlab, strut down the corridors of the academe and have a great year.

The jocks. Busy, busy, busy. Maintaining high grades and being in the varsity team shouldn't take a toll on your sense of fashion. Establish control in style. Have an extra shirt or two in your gym bag so you can change as you go from academic to extra curricular.

The class clown. It's not your fault that you have a great sense of humor and you are known for it. But draw the line between annoying jerk and lovable fellow with tees baring statements that trigger laughter and catch attention.

The sweethearts. You can't help public displays of affection. So while all eyes are on both of you, you might as well look great in a sexy tank top and a fabulous Penshoppe ringer tee.

The campus crush. In a fantasy world, there would be little hearts in the air everywhere you go. It's always great to be aware that your coolest shirt and well-washed Denimlab jeans are constantly scrutinized.

The popular kids. Student council president. Editor of the school organ. Or someone with plainly out-of-this-world beauty. What is it with power and unearthly elements that draw attention, inspire awe and generate votes? Could it be more than just a great outfit and the confidence to wear it?

The genius. You know it all. Well, almost. There is nothing like being smart and looking smart at the same time.

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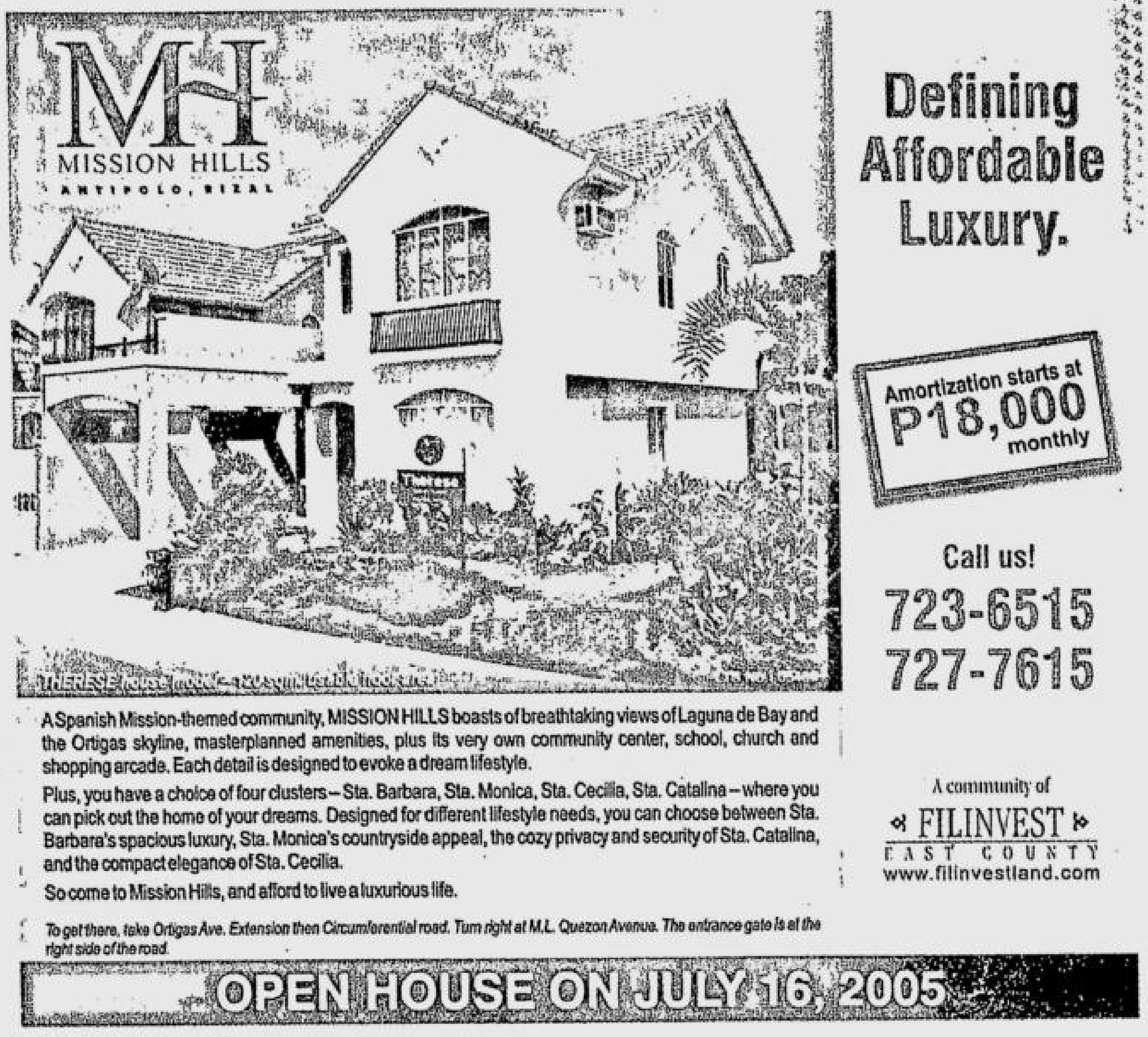
THE CLASS CLOWNS. On Mike: dark-blue ringer tee (P399); on Dawn: blush-pink ringer tee (P299), khaki stretch pants (P949), green tote bag (P599); on Ala: heathered-kiwi ringer tee (299); on Matteo: harvest-pumpkin ringer tee (P399); mid-blue Denimlab jeans (P799)

THE BRAINIACS. On Mike: sheer-pink ringer tee (P399); on Dawn: heathered-mulberry (P299), khaki stretch pants, (P949) purple tote bag (P449); on Ala: aspen-gold ringer tee (P299), denim mailbag (P599); on Matteo: sage ringer tee (P399), backpack(P599)



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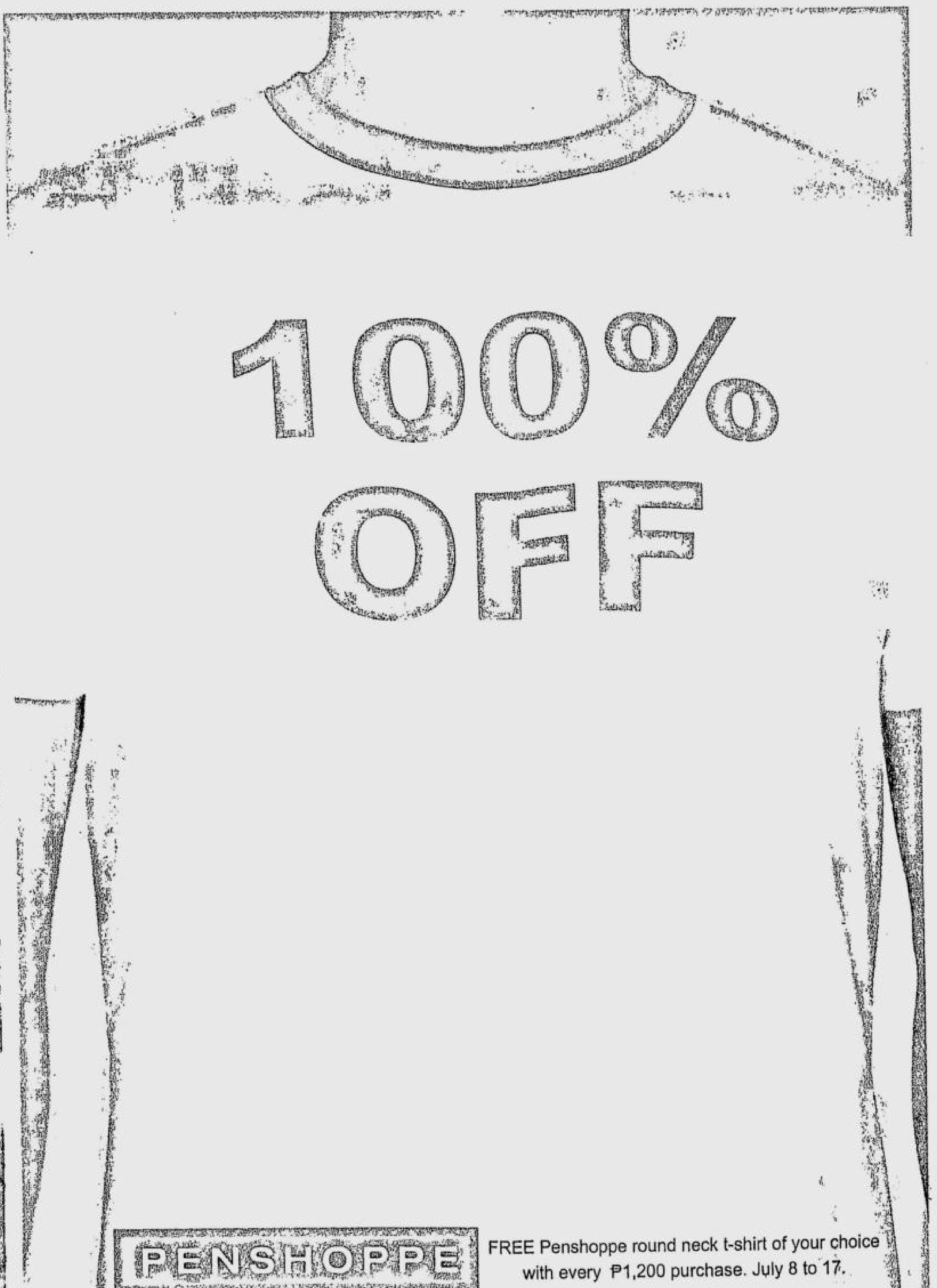

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Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 3901, Series of 2005.

‘Operanow’ moved to September

DUE to the unforeseen escalating political crisis gripping the nation, the Philippine Opera Company and the Cultural Center of the Philippines are moving the opera gala concert “Operanow ” from July 16 to Sept. 14 at the CCP Main Theater. The same tickets will be honored for the new show date.

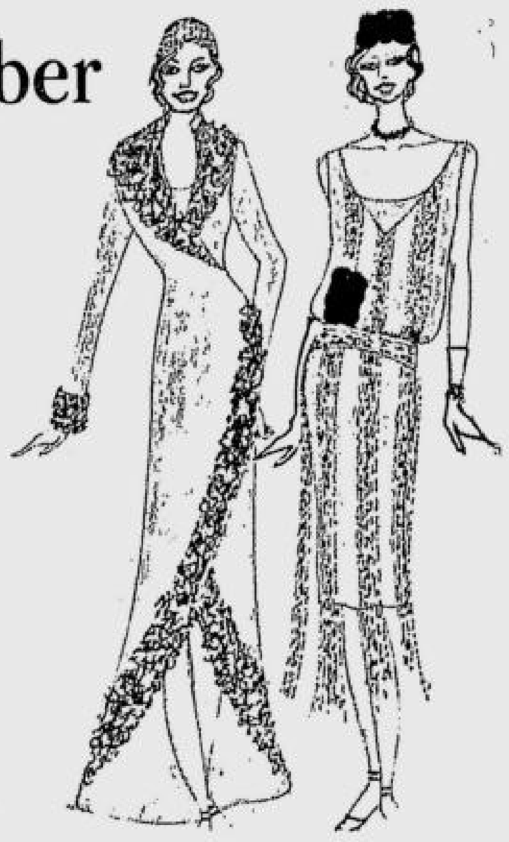
“Operanow,” a gala performance featuring 30 of the country’s finest classical performers with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, is directed by Floy Quintos with Prof. Hermiginildo Ranera as musical director and conductor.

Produced in cooperation with YGC Group of Companies, E. Coudray of Rustan’s Essences, Caffe Puccini, Tower Records, Avon, NU 107 and 98.7 dzFE, the concert will showcase best-loved moments from operatic masterpieces—“La Boheme,” “Aida,” “Turandot,” “Carmen,” “Madame Butterfly,” “La Traviata,” “Noli Me Tangere,” among others.

Another highlight of the show will be the modern interpretation of traditional opera costumes designed by Manila couturiers Maxie Cinco, Pepsi Herrera, Frederick Peralta, Eric Pineda, Raoul Ramirez, Edwin Tan and Zenaida Gutierrez.

“Operanow” will benefit Cribs Phils. Inc. and the Friends of Philippine Opera Foundation’s audience development program.

Ticket prices are P2,000, P1,500, P800 and P500, with discounts available for students, senior citizens and groups. Call Ticketworld at 8919999, Philippine Opera Co., 8958097, or the CCP Marketing Dept. at 8323878, 8323681, 8321125 loc. 1801-1806.



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Promo runs from March 1 to August 31, 2005.
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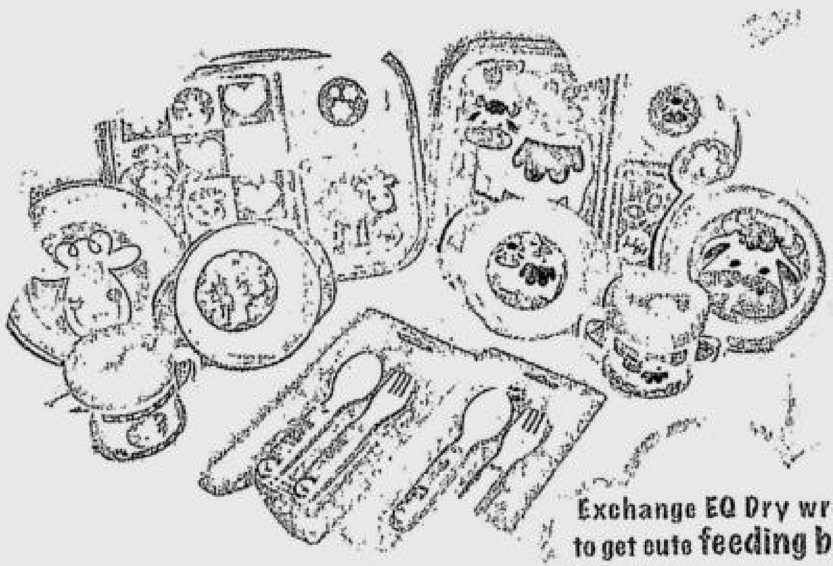
Strike a pose at the photo card booth for a souvenir of the great time you had.



Exchange EQ Dry wrappers to get cute feeding buddies.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0706, Series of 2005

You can still join in on the fun! Make sure to go to these malls on the following dates:
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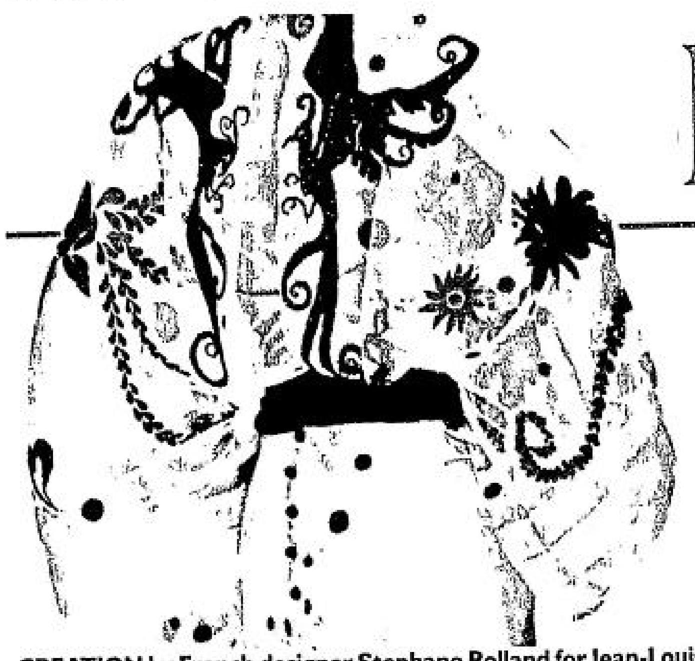

CREATION by French designer Stephane Rolland for Jean-Louis Sherrer's Fall-Winter 2005-2006 Haute Couture collection in Paris AP

Sleek silhouettes from the past in Paris

Story on page E2

KARL Lagerfeld AP

July 15 & 17 (Fri & Sun), 10am - 10pm
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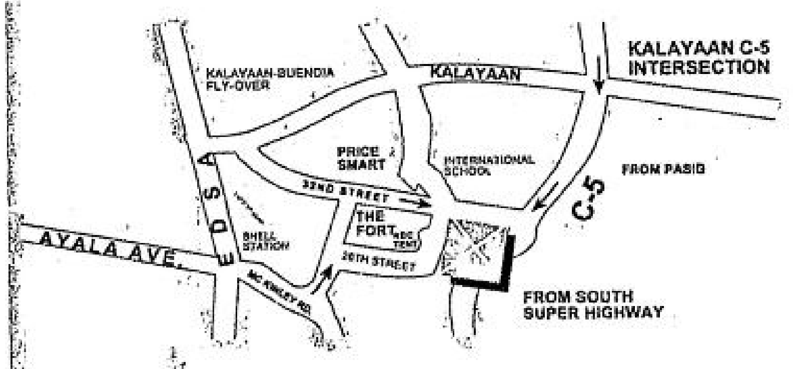

Market! Market! showers you with discounts this Pay Day Sale. So come to Market! Market! and enjoy every price drop.

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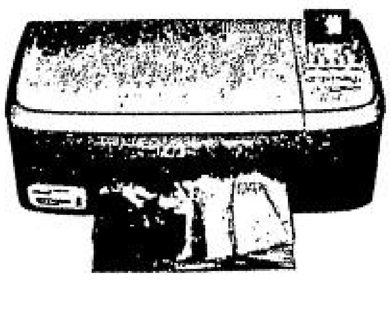
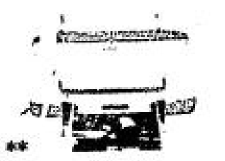
Get Fit with HP!

Get a limited edition gym bag, a massage from Body Care, or a 2 week trial pass at Fitness First when you buy any of these HP printers



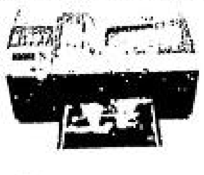
PSC 2355** P 13,290

- Printer, scanner, copier
- Print and copy at up to 23 ppm (black) or 18ppm (color)
- HP Photoret 3 / HP Photoret 4 (with optional 6-ink color printing)
- 1.8" LCD screen colour graphics display
- Multi-slot memory card reader



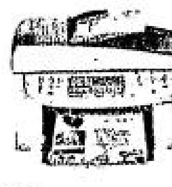
OJ 4255** P 8,990

- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Print and copy at up to 17 ppm (black) or 12ppm (color)
- HP Photoret 3 / HP Photoret 4 (with optional 6-ink color printing)
- Scan up to 600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution / 36-bit



OJ 5510** P 11,690

- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Up to 4800-optimised dpi colour printing and laser quality text
- Print and copy at up to 17 ppm (black) or 12ppm (color)
- HP Photoret 3 colour layering technology



OJ 7210*** P 19,890

- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Print and copy at up to 30 ppm (black) or 20ppm (color)
- HP Photoret 3 / HP Photoret 4 (with optional 6-ink colour printing)
- Memory card capability
- Built-in networking (802.3 ethernet network capability)

PS 7450** P 5,990

- VERSATILE Everyday Printer - document / photo printing
- Fast printing speed at 18ppm black or 14ppm color
- HP Photoret 4 Color Layering Technology (6 ink color printing)
- 4800-optimised dpi
- Multi-slot memory card reader (CF1, CF2, Smart Media, Memory Stick, Secure Digital / MMC and xD Picture Card)

PS 8450*** P 19,190

- Studio quality 8-ink color printing
- 4800 optimised dpi
- Borderless panorama photo printing
- Fast printing speed at 20ppm black
- Multi-slot memory card reader
- Optional BLUETOOTH connectivity (via bluetooth adapter)

Promo Details

1. The "Get Fit with HP" promotion will run from June 1 to August 15, 2005. Redemption will be until October 15, 2005
2. To avail of the promotion, consumers need to purchase any of the following printers: DJ5740, DJ6540, OJ4255, OJ5510, PSC2355, OJ7210, PS325, PS7450, PS8450 from any participating HP reseller
3. Consumers get a free gym bag with a purchase of either the DJ5740, DJ6540, OJ7210 or PS8450. The Gym bag will be bundled with the printer box and can be availed of at the time of purchase
4. Consumers get either a free massage session or a 2 week trial membership from Fitness First with the purchase of either the OJ4255, OJ5510, PSC2355, OJ7210, PS325, PS7450, PS8450. Consumers are only entitled to choose either the free massage session worth or the free 2 week trial membership
5. Consumers need to present a duly filled up sticker/info sheet, cut out from the printer box, along with the sales invoice and a valid ID to any Fitness First Club (Ayala, Fort, Ortigas, [illegible], Robinson's Metro East, Robinson's Place Manila, Alabang, Greenhills, ABS-CBN, and Ayala Center Cebu) to avail of the free 2 week trial membership or free massage
6. Fitness First will issue a two-week trial membership coupon to the consumer upon presentation of required documents
7. The two-week trial membership will expire 14 days after first usage
8. The free massage can be availed only upon prior appointment with any Fitness First branch
9. This promotion can not to be used in conjunction with other running HP promotions

HP [illegible] Center (632) 867-3557 Fitness First (632) 845-0000

hp invent
Fitness First

MANILA: HP HOME AND BUSINESS CENTER (GLORIETTA), ABC, ACCENT MICRO / PC LIVE, ACENET, ASIANIC, COMPUNK, ELECTROWORLD, FATKEE, INFOWORX, NT COMPUTER, OCTAGON, PC DYNAMICS, PC EXPRESS, PERFECTBYTE, PREMIUM LOGIC, PRODATA, SILICON VALLEY, STARAPPLE, TCA, TOM, VILLMAN, PROVINCIAL: BCG (BACOLOD), BITSTOP (DAGUPAN), CBX CORPORATION (CEBU), COLUMBIA (DAVAO), COMPLEX (BAGUIO), COMPUTER WORLD MARKETING (DAVAO), CONCEPT COMPUTER (ILOILO), DATAVISION (ILIGAN), DATAWORLD COMPUTER CENTER (CAGAYAN), DENVERS (LEGASPI), DI COMPUTER SYSTEMS (DAVAO), ELECTROCOMPUTER DATA SYSTEM (TACLOBAN), ELECTROWORLD (CEBU), EMCOR, GAISANO INTERFACE (CAGAYAN), GLOBAL SOLUTIONS (CAGAYAN), LENTON MARKETING, INC. (CEBU), MDR MICROWARE SALES (CEBU), NX AYALA SALES AND SERVICES (CEBU), NORTH POINT (LAOAG), PC 4 ME (PANGASINAN), RCA (CAVITE), THINKING TOOLS (CEBU)

LAMCO
WBi

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3101, Series of 2005

LEFT: Lagerfeld; above: Elie Saab AP

SUPERMODEL Linda Evangelista, 40, in John Galliano for Christian Dior AP

Sleek silhou[illegible] from the past

PARIS—Karl Lagerfeld sent out a Chanel couture collection of varying looks that ranged from turn-of-the-century Edwardian to 1920s chic to the cool, sleek lines of the 1960s and beyond.

All of the models, clad in black capes and coats, came out at once and took their places on a circular stage.

Each outer-garment was as different in shape and volume as it was in texture. On cue, the models opened their coats to reveal linings or other design details that perfectly matched the dress underneath.

A voluminous black double cape in washed taffeta with black ostrich feather collars—reminiscent of the early 20th century—was cloaked over a two-tiered fuchsia bubble dress.

Another tiered cape coat trimmed in turkey feathers opened to reveal a trim, black-and-white empire-waist dress with feathers radiating over the bustline. An A-line floor-length coat in curled ostrich feathers floated over a little beaded black dress.

Silhouettes were round, A-line, slim, knee-length and ankle-length. They were cut from taffeta, felted wool and shiny vinyl, and were trimmed in feathers, Mongolian fur, beads, sequins and spangles.

For daywear, silhouettes inspired by the Jackie Kennedy era that looked particularly smart included a black-and-white tweed halter-neck sheath with a black coat lined in a matching tweed lining; and pale pink and coral sleeveless dresses with natural fringe worn under round-shouldered coats.

Signature tweeds were dressed up for cocktail wear.

A honey plaid dress with empire waist was dotted with 3-D sequins. The same effect was repeated in the lining of the overcoat. Standouts in evening wear included a 1920s "flapper" dress with beaded motifs and feather trim at the hem, and a black crepe gown with spaghetti straps and a multicolored "abstract art" panel running down the middle.

To the nines

Christian Lacroix's woman was dressed to the nines. Despite Lacroix's change of owner—LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton sold the fashion house in January to US-based Falic Group—Lacroix sent out one of his most luxurious Haute Couture collections.

The collection began by revealing Lacroix as a painter. Hand-painted silk dresses splashed with bold abstract prints or freestyle florals were worn under matching bubble coats.

A pink diagonally draped gown was made of strips of organdy carefully sewn back onto the Tango style dress.

Lacroix also made bold strokes in tulle over a smoke-gray satin sheath dress.

Much of the collection was sumptuous and tastefully opulent with lots of embroidery and beads.

A crimson red velvet dinner coat came with rich golden braid embroidery and crystal inlays. It was worn over a bright magenta chiffon dress that flowed softly from a halter neckline.

Another dress of pale blue chiffon had a deeply cut neckline that was filled with a transparent chiffon and encrusted with silver crystals.

AP

VALENTINO
REUTERS

CHRISTIAN
Lacroix
REUTERS

VALENTINO
REUTERS

JEAN-LOUIS Scherrer AFP

JEAN PAUL
Gaultier AP

Luxe, delicate lingerie

NOTHING makes a girl feel more utterly attractive than lingerie in the most delicate fabrics, filled with feminine details and in flattering, body-skimming shapes. Give them as a send-off gift for your bride-to-be friend's bridal shower or "hen" night, and for brides, as an indulgent treat worthy of the big day.

Intimate apparel shop Better Than Bare at the Greenbelt Shopping Plaza can have every modern girl—whether bride, bridesmaid or just invited—covered, draped and wrapped in lavish and inviting lingerie pieces imported from France, US, Italy and Bulgaria.

Get the right dose of sex appeal and feminine mystique with Better Than Bare's collection of luxurious lingerie and elegant swimwear. You'll also find hundreds of fashionable finds at the various specialty shops and fashion boutiques of Greenbelt Shopping Plaza.

LINGERIE with feminine details

SEXY black

FLATTERING design

Framesi global TOUCH 2005

HAI(R)EVOLUTION

GLOBAL CUT & COLOR with ITALIAN CREATIVE FLAIR

Giovanni Damiani, Artistic Director, Italian Style Framesi & Team Head, Hai(R) evolution of Framesi S.p.A., Milan, Italy recently conducted a 2-day Global Touch Workshop among a select group Filipino hairstylists. Using Framesi's Prêt-a-Porter Hairstyle Collection that is coordinated with the latest in make-up and clothes fashion in the likes of Jean Paul Gaultier, Gucci, Roberto Cavalli, Dolce & Gabbana, Ferre, Max Mara, Alberta Ferretti, Lanvin, Burberry, Giovanni taught the Filipino stylists how to execute the hairstyles using the GLOBAL CUT & COLOR TECHNIQUE with an Italian Creative Flair.

Experience a Global Touch look today!
More styles available in the following salons:

Bambbi Fuentes
Hannah Velasco / Ghia Secare
Bambbi Fuentes
Hair & Make-up Studio
Timog Ave. Quezon City
Tel. No. 411-2487 / 927-1998

Crispin Britanico
Ana Masagca / Elvie Paguio
Crispin Britanico Salon
Ayala Center, Makati City
Tel No. 8403876 / 840-3885

Crispin Britanico / Vangie Dequiña
Jina Leonidas / Chona Tanquion
Crispin Britanico Salon
Forbes Park, Makati City
Tel 887-2047 / 887-2084

Fredy Gutierrez / Joey Monzales
Fredy Salon
865 Estrada St., Malate, Manila
Tel. No. 303-9924

Jun Guiang
Fanny Serrano Salon
Sct. Rallos, Tomas Morato, Q.C
Tel. 925-5251 / 925-5253

Leo Puzo
Generates Beauty Salon
Villa Esmeralda Vil., Sta. Rosa, Lag.
Tel. (049) 247-7782 / 247-9651

Mhel Alelojo / Akira Kalipunan
Glamour Salon
Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna
Tel. No. 529-2139

Rey Fernandez / Lito Preclaro
Hairbytes Salon - Podium
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. 632-9467 / 631-5798

Chris Robin Ballesteros
Hairbytes Salon - Shangri-la
Shangri-la Mall, Mandaluyong
Tel. 631-001 / / 637-9535 / 635-7379

Chrissy Calderon / Armel Evora
Hairworks Salon
Legaspi Vil., Makati City
Tel. 888-4819

Meldy Miram / Gemma C. Girao
Hair Tattler Salon
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 893-3496

Leni Miram / Melanie Ladao
Hazel Cal
il centro salon
BF Homes, Parañaque City
Tel. No. 820-0068

Jacqueline Almoradie
Jakkelina Salon
Del Nor Subd., Las Piñas City
Tel. No. 802-0296

James Abayan
James Beauty & Care
111 Tomas Morato Ave., Q. C.
Tel. No. 375-1971

Nimia Ferrer
Lita Bernardo / Marilou de Castro
LaManila Beau Monde
Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan
Tel. No. 724-8083/ 722-9092

Lucy Britanico / Fred Penales
Ma. Luisa Diaz
Lucy Britanico & F Salon
Glorietta 2, Ayala Ctr., Makati City
Tel. No. 817-1833/817 8030

Eva Salodo / Amor Dong
Lexxusa
Forever Young Salon
189 Kapunan Avenue, Q.C
Tel. No. 439-2939

Dawn Saylas
Mary Pauline Salon
Lifestyle Bldg, 60 Timog Ave., Q.C.
Tel. No. 413-3596 / 374-5471

Merci Baklag
Merci Salon
Project 6, Quezon City
Tel. No. 920-9210

Pinky San Jose / Andie Ramirez
Pinky San Jose Salon
411 Gen. Luna St., Malabon City
Tel. No. 281-8177

Robert Guevarra
Robert G Salon
148 Marselia St., Rosario, Cavite
Tel. No. (046) 438-3240

Ronie Villamayor
Ronie Villamayor
450 Wilson St., San Juan
Tel. No. 744-4928

Mark Legaspino
Salon de Carlos
Lotus Mall, Nuevo Ave., Imus, Cavite
Tel. No. (046) 472-2800

Mary Jane Flores
St. Lawrence of Manila
Burgos St. San Pablo City, Laguna
Tel. No. (049) 246-5034

Rene Arejo / Tres Escuro
Ultima Salon
Shoppesville Arcade, Greenhills, SJ
Tel. No. 721-0708

Jun Pido
Zalon by Jun Pido
Casa Catalina, Malate, Manila
Tel. No. 303-6602

Save yourself from that uncool smoking-related sore throat.
Text BACTIDOL and get this for free*.
Hexetidine Bactidol

Smoking regularly makes you prone to sore throat, making it more susceptible to infection. Uncool. At the first sign of sore throat, gargle twice a day with Bactidol. It's the only oral antiseptic that contains Hexetidine—a formula scientifically proven to provide triple-action against sore throat:

- It delivers fast-kill of 90% of oral bacteria that may worsen sore throat.
- It effectively relieves pain in the swollen area.
- It coats and protects the throat for up to 12 hours straight.

Bactidol is recognized by the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, the experts in voice and throat care.

*For a free bottle of Bactidol, please contact us via the following channels:

1. Send your text to 0918-9Pfizer (0918-973-4937).
   PCH<space>BACTIDOL<space>FName/MI/LName/Complete Mailing Address and Zip Code
   Example: PCH BACTIDOL Rafael/V./Castañeda/5 V. Mapa St., Marikina City 1800
2. E-mail your name and mailing address to jet.ignacio@stratworks.net.
3. Call 813-7083 or 817-9558.

Pfizer Consumer Healthcare Division

Hexetidine
Bactidol

Rustan SUPERMARKETS

Just 4 You!

July 15 - 31, 2005

Not just one. Not just two. We have the Best promos for you!

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up to
50%
discount

Big Savings! Big Smiles!

Get discounts up to 50% with a lot more choice items for a lot less.

Fresh Arrivals!

Loads of new imported items are just waiting for you at Rustan's Supermarket Fresh!

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Free Gifts!

Take home freebies for a minimum of P275 single receipt purchase at Rustan's Xxpresslane.

*Free gifts vary per store per week.

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Plastic Crayons
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J. DELA CRUZ

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Exclusive Offer!

Enjoy E-Purse points! Sign-up for the Frequent Shoppers Plus Card. Now reduced from P300 to P200!

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Xpresslane by Rustan SUPERMARKETS

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For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Skin brighteners for the neck down

WHITENING lotions

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

WITH ALL the brightening products out there, a light complexion on the face in stark contrast to the relatively dark skin down is a common sight.

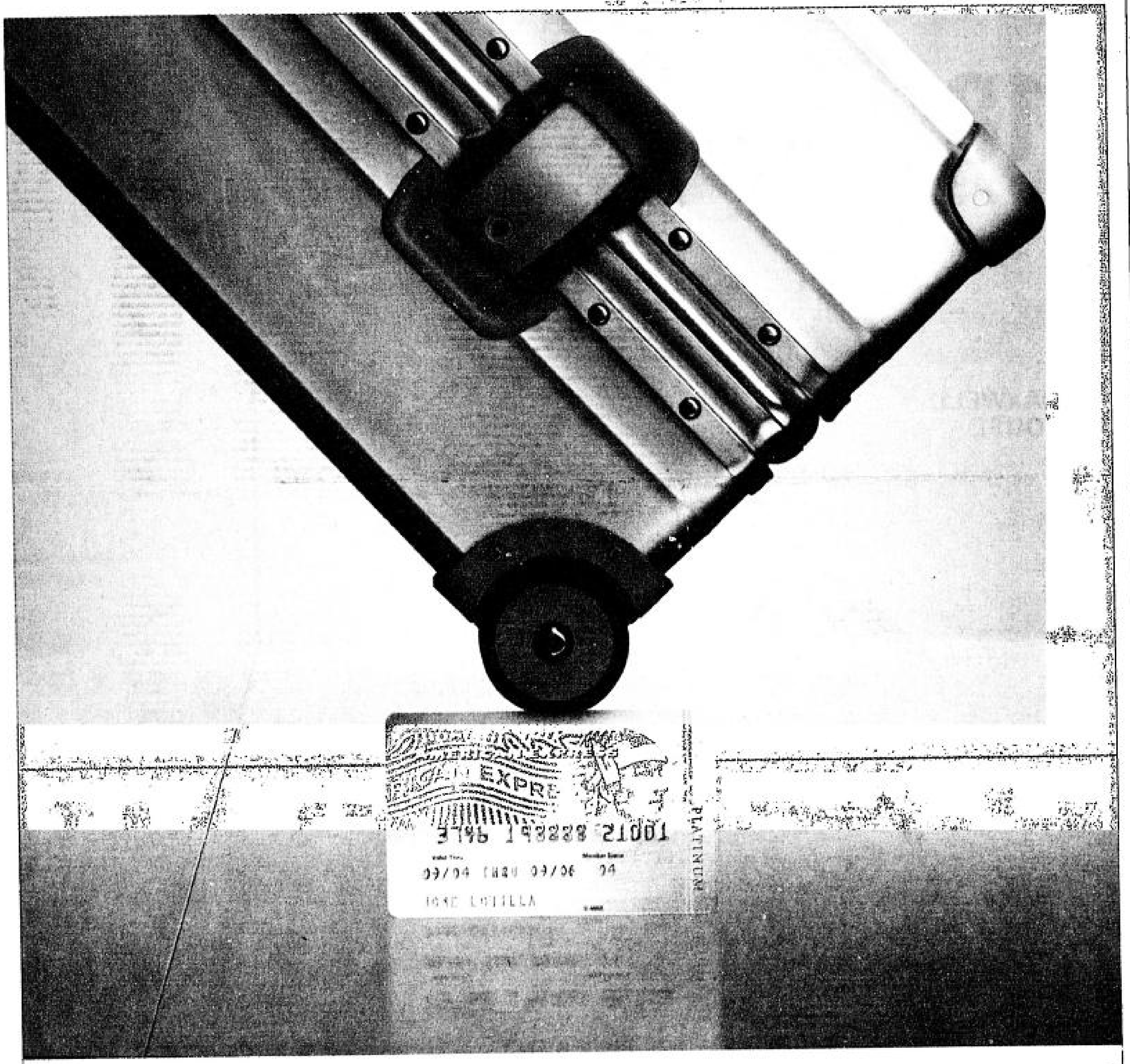
The forearms and feet are usually the darkest areas because they are often exposed to the sun like the face, but we neglect to put sun block on them.

Glutathione tablets are supplements to detoxify the body, strengthen the immune system and protect the liver. But they have become more popular for their skin-lightening effect.

Those with light to medium skin tones are happy with the results, but those who are darker-skinned who typically have to wait longer for results want something that works faster.

I received my first skin-lightening tablets in a raffle. Although I have naturally light skin, I tan very easily and the tan doesn't fade even-

SKIN/ F4


We've put two trips to Hong Kong on our Peso Platinum Credit Card.

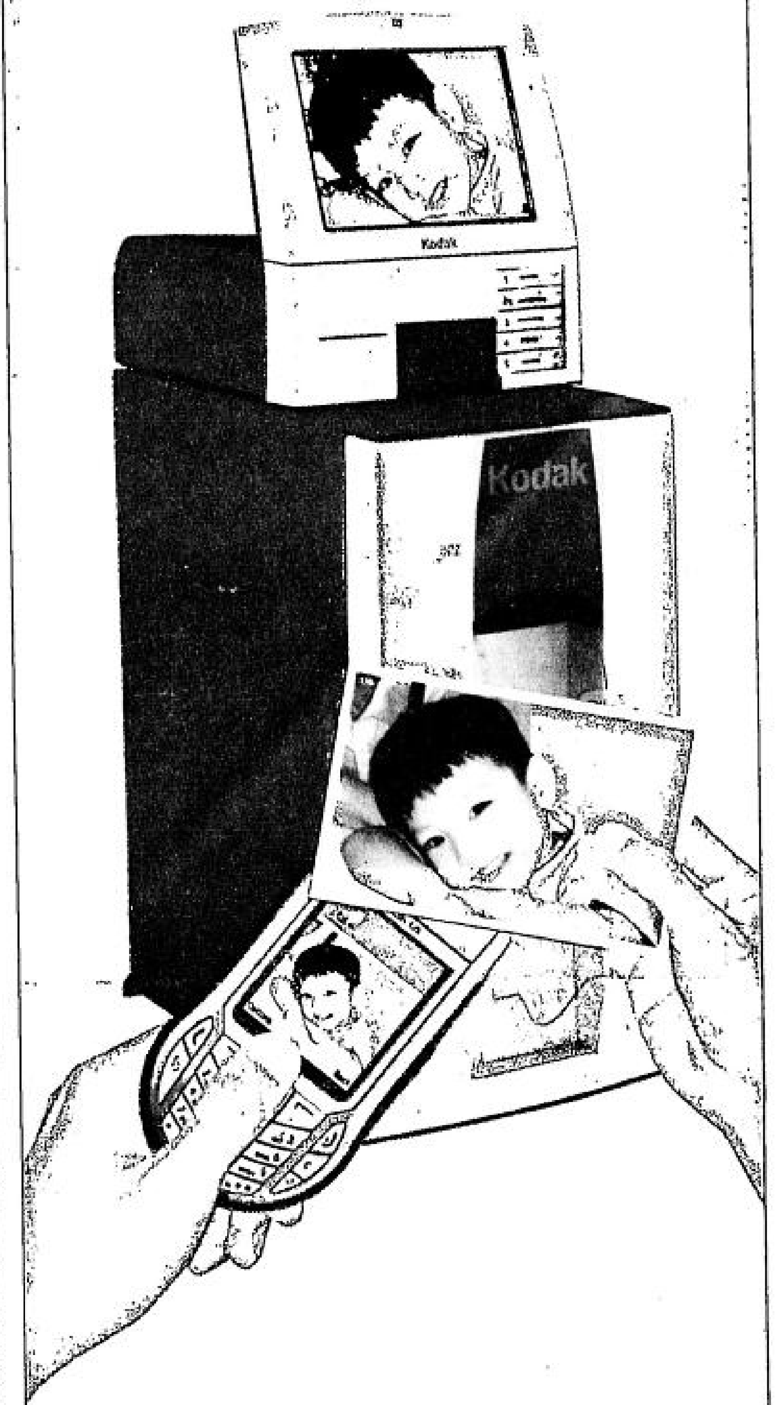
The Credit Card that's loaded with benefits just got more. Because when you acquire the American Express Peso Platinum Credit Card before 31 July 2005 and spend just Php 150,000 within six months from card approval date, we'll give you enough Membership Rewards Points for a round-trip plane ticket to Hong Kong*. Spend more, and get a second round-trip ticket.

Apply for the credit card with substance at 814-4777.

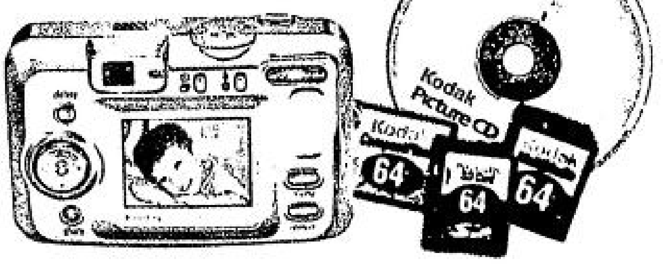
AMERICAN EXPRESS

Terms and conditions apply. *Through the PAL Mabuhay Miles Program. Promo period: 08 May 2005 until 31 July 2005. Please see brochure for complete details.
Per DTI NCR Permit No.AI-386, Series of 2005. Travel services in the Philippines are provided through Adventure International Tours, Inc.

PICTURES TO GO IN 12 SECONDS.



Print pictures taken from your camera phones or digital cameras on Kodak paper in as fast as 12 seconds. With the Kodak Picture Maker, printing digital pictures has never been easier and faster.



FREE 4R PRINT FOR EVERY 10 PRINTS with the Kodak Picture Maker. Promo period is from June 15 to July 23, 2005.

VISIT ANY OF OVER 250 KODAK PICTURE MAKER STATIONS TODAY.

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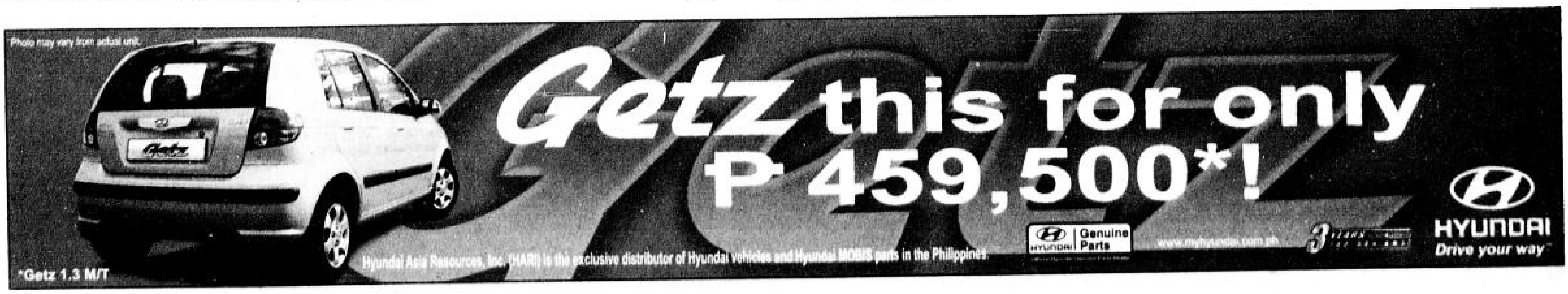
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 3451, Series of 2005.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big R Supercenter

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July 15 - 28, 2005

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TOMATO (native) P 18 /kg *

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MAGNOLIA Chicken Hotdog P140/pack *

BAGUIO BEANS P26/kg *

MEKENI Picnic Hotdog Regular 500g P64/pack *

ARCE DAIRY Sherbet Buko Lechias 1/2 gal P147.25 each *

PUSIT BISAYA P110/kg *

MAGNOLIA Chicken Popcorn 500g P 77 /pack *

MARBY Thick Sandwich Cuts P36.25 pack *

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* Items & prices not applicable in Visayas and Mindanao

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MAXWELL HOUSE

3 in 1 Coffee Polybag P 77.50

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ESKULIN POWDER Mulan, Ariel, Cinderella 75g P 26.75 each

P830.50 each GAINPLUS with Eye Q 1.6kg

P 4.40 each HO-MI Beef Wanton 65g

P 61.25 each COLGATE Great Fresh Flavor 150ml

P 31.50 each COLGATE Twister Toothbrush with Cap

P 4.95 each HO-MI Toyomansi Pouch 65g

P 85.75 each JOLLY Canola Oil 1L

P 22.50 each SAN MIGUEL Pale Pilsen in Can 330ml

P 20.50 each PALMOLIVE Naturals Sun Care 125g

P120 each NIVEA Whitening Lotion 150ml

P 74.25 each NIVEA Whitening Deodorant 50ml

P741.50 each GROW Choco with EYE Q 1.8kg

P 33.25 each KNORR Crab and Corn Soup 60g

P 29.50 each JOLLY Cream of Mushroom 298g

P 82 each ASTRING O SOL Gold 120ml

P 99.75 each AQUAFRESH Tooth & Tongue Toothbrush

P103 each EXTRA Bathroom Tissue 2 ply (12's)

P 22.75 each KNORR Cream Soup Corn 60g

P 4.40 each HO-MI Chicken & Garlic Flavor 55g

P 22.75 each RED HORSE in Can 330ml

P352.50 each EQ DRY Jumbo Pack Medium (54's)

P145 each DR. P Unisex Basic Medium (10's)

P 24.75 each TWEETY HEARTS 280 Sheets 2 ply (4's)

P50 Million

10 WINNERS OF A HOUSE AND LOT,
AN ISUZU CROSSWIND
AND ₱500,000 CASH!

Sali Na, Sali Now!

DOH BFAD Permit # 0806

Bili na bili now ng 3 Nestle products!

WOW! Wow low prices

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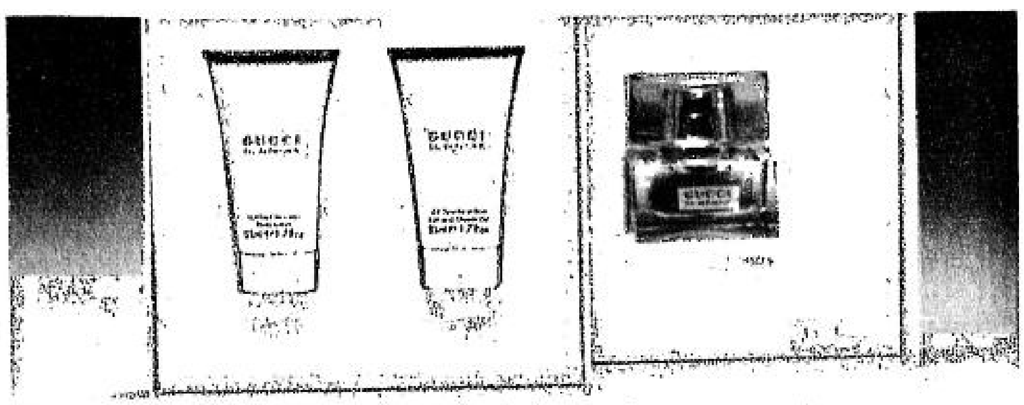
- Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
- Nepo Mall Dagupan
- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Eastwood City, Libis
- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
- Susano Complex, Novaliches
- Berkeley Square, Commonwealth

PER DTI - NCR PERMIT # 4099 SERIES OF 2005



GUCCI Eau de Parfum II spray, body lotion and shower gel

Luxurious bath products

GUCCI Eau de Parfum II, the second edition of the original Eau de Parfum, has its own exclusive range of bath products—which for a limited period, comes in an exclusive set that includes a Gucci EDP II Spray 50 ml, Body Lotion 50 ml, and Shower Gel 50 ml—for a special price of only P3,750. Offer is valid until supplies last.

Gucci Eau de Parfum II is a fresh, luminous fragrance filled with a soft and discreet Asian breath. The bath lines offer new ways to wear the scent, while cleansing, softening and protecting the skin. Whether lathered on in the shower, or smoothed onto the skin after, they envelop the wearer with a whisper of Gucci Eau de Parfum II— leaving a trace of the luminous, sensuous scent on the body all day—or all night—long.

Gucci Eau de Parfum II is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation in leading department stores nationwide.

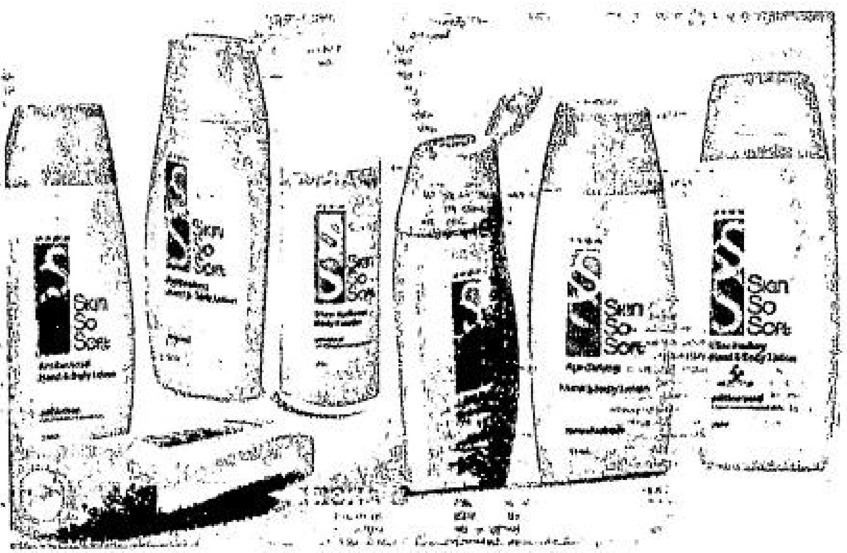
Wrap yourself in softness

GLOBAL beauty company Avon brings you sensuous new ways to instantly transform rough, dry patches into luxuriously soft skin with its Avon Skin-So-Soft line.

Packaged in ergonomically-shaped, beautiful and easy-to-hold containers, the Avon Skin-So-Soft line offers instant results and extra moisturization. The effect is nourished, hydrated skin that is ultra soft to the touch. With new formulations that include vitamin E, shea butter and jojoba oil, and packaged with Avon's exclusive Soft Touch complex, Skin-So-Soft is now, more than ever, the skin softness authority.

Skin-So-Soft gives you skin-so-young with the all-new Skin-So-Soft Age Defying Hand and Body Lotion and Skin-So-Soft Age Defying Body Wash. Featuring the exclusive Age Defying Complex, the Hand and Body Lotion leaves skin firm, toned and radiant, reducing signs of aging.

For maximum softness and age-defying benefit, begin your regimen with the Age Defying Body Wash which sweeps away surface impurities as it nourishes and improves skin texture and radiance.



AVON Skin-So-Soft line

Skin-So-Soft Original Replenishing Hand and Body Lotion is the solution to dry, rough skin that needs extra attention and moisturization. This amazing product smoothens and softens dry, rough skin upon the very first application. It helps reduce the drying effects of weather, wind, sun and low humidity and ensures long-lasting hydration for the skin.

Soft, clean skin is just a touch away with Skin-So-Soft Antibacterial Hand and Body Lotion. Packed with the antibacterial complex that includes Witch Hazel Extract, Tea Tree Extract and triclosan, Skin-So-Soft Antibacterial Hand and Body Lotion is the fresh and soft route to skin that's healthy and protected from germs and bacteria.

The new Avon Skin-So-Soft products are now available from Avon Ladies nationwide and at Avon boutiques in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and SM Fairview.

UNSUI
Japanese Restaurant

Sunday Lunch Buffet

P 750.00 ++ per Adult
P 390.00 ++ for children
12 years & below.

Unsui Japanese Restaurant offers a buffet every Sunday lunch with a wide selection of Japanese dishes from Sashimi, Sushi, Tempura and Teppanyaki for the month of June. The whole family will definitely enjoy this treat.

Highly refined Japanese cuisine with that contemporary touch. An expression of choice traditions and practices that make for a truly enchanting Japanese experience only at Unsui!

Century Park Hotel

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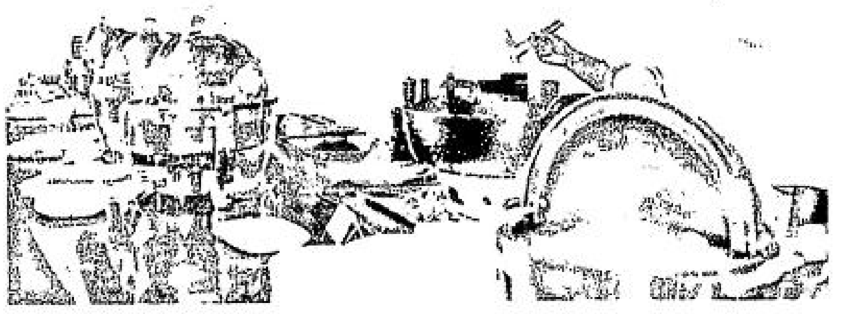

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National Book Store

Special care for color-treated hair

COLORED hair will always look fabulous but without proper care, locks will begin to look dull and its dazzling color will fade over time.

What causes stressed tresses? According to professionals, tresses get stressed from the mechanical and chemical treatments they are exposed to, such as straightening, frequent chemical coloring using ammonia and bleach, styling with flat irons and blowers, etc. The other culprits are frequent shampooing using products that are not designed for color-treated hair and environmental factors such as pollution, UV rays, chlorine and salt water.

Given all these factors, color-treated hair needs special care. Schwarzkopf Professional keeps your hair color's brilliance long lasting with the new Bonacure Color Care Injection—a concentrated care treatment to rebuild chemically stressed colored hair into a healthy structure.

Color Care Injection has active ingredients such as a color stabilizer, which fixes color pigments for sustained color intensity and UV filter for utmost color protection against harmful elements. It also has deeply penetrating RepHeal proteins to regenerate damaged hair structure from the inside and special silicon oils to smoothen and repair the hair's surface on the outside.

Color Care Injection uses the Aphinity Technology, which is exclusive to all Bonacure products, so the active ingredients will only target the damaged areas so as not to overburden the hair. With regular treatment, your hair becomes stronger and healthier while keeping its vibrant color alive.

Bonacure Color Care Injection is available at leading salons all over Metro Manila and selected provinces.

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Skin brighteners for the neck down

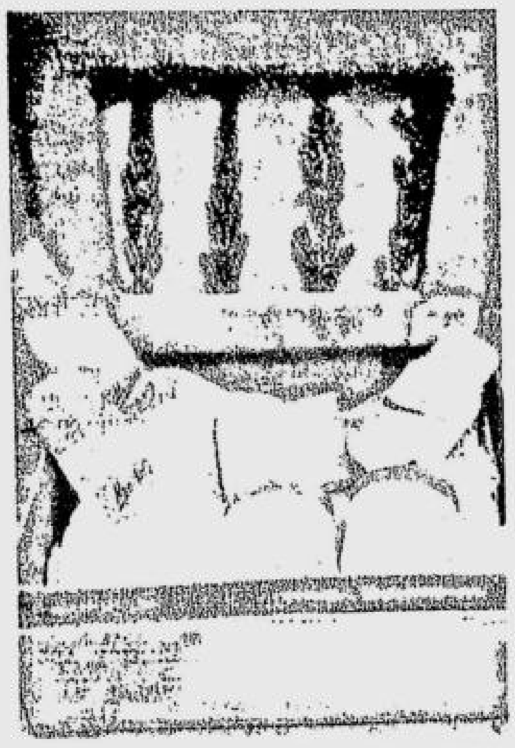
From page F1

ly. Like my face, my torso and thighs are very light, but my neck, arms, legs, back and feet are significantly darker due to beach trips.

I have been taking skin-lightening tablets for close to three weeks and have seen a significant change on my hands and feet. They definitely work faster than glutathione, which takes months before you see results.

The effect first shows itself on the webbing between the fingers and toes then spreads upward. My tan has never subsided this fast.

To make sure, I stopped all my other supplements. These **American tablets** are the premium in the selection and cost P5,000/30 pieces, taken once a day. The next in line are **Japanese skin-lightening tablets** (P2,500/30 pieces), which have to be taken with 1,000-mg Vitamins C and E to boost effectiveness.



WHITENING ARSENAL. Everything at P200 each, except for pills

Promo

The good news is that they have a promo now where these tablets are on a buy-one-take-one at the Mendez branches.

Mendez also has an effective **papaya lightening soap**, an **astringent**, a **lightening cream** and an **SPF 45 lightening sun block**, which has a matte finish, for P200 each. I am impressed with the astringent and lightening cream. (Check with the in-house doctor at the clinic if you can take the tablets.)

Call any Mendez clinic at 8929088, 4358173 or 6352577.

There are impressive topical products in the market today made for body lightening. Others even have multipurpose benefits.

Kose Junkisui White Lift Serum (P945) has four uses: fat burning, firming (shrinks thigh diameter), whitening and anti-cellulite.

Only the Japanese will find a way to incorporate an answer for multiple concerns. Kose also has a **detoxifying body wash** (P945) that smells just as heavenly as the White Lift Serum.

Clarins White Plus Purifying Whitening Body Mist (for those who don't like any lotions or serums) leaves a sheer white veil over the body, giving it an instant lighter tone. The effect is beyond cosmetic, though, as the mist has active ingredients that suppress melanocytes from releasing more melanin so the skin does get lighter over time.

THE AUTHOR'S choice body scrubs

Lotions

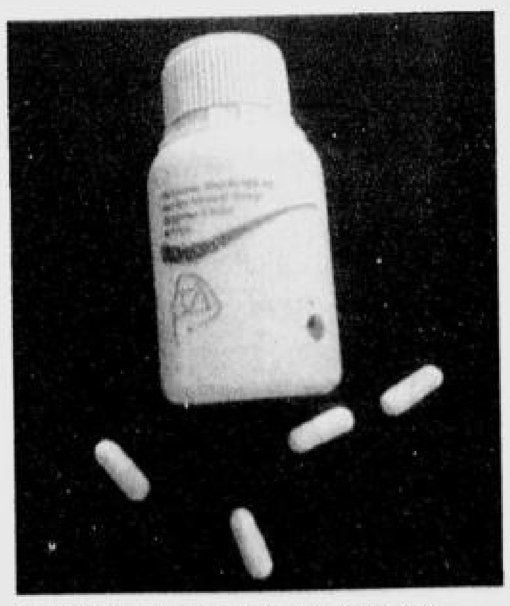
L'Oreal White Perfect Triple Whitening Body Moisturizer SPF 18 (P849) works the fastest; **Nivea Skin Whitening Lotion; Vaseline White and Clear; Mr. Coconut Hand and Body Lotion** (green, P150) gives a whiter tone upon application due to the green tone, but also lightens skin over time and has that yummy sweet cream scent.

Accumulated dead skin makes body skin break out in acne, look dull, uneven toned and darker than it actually is. so I am now a firm believer in body scrubs. The best body scrubs for me are those that are oil-based with sugar or salt, which I apply on dry skin. I also massage and rub it on acne-prone spots like the back, shoulders and chest and darker areas like the elbows and knees. Then I rinse it off with water and follow it up with shower gel. I do this twice a week.

My favorites: **Clarins Toning Body Polish, L'Oreal Exfotonic** (P679), **Bath Bloomers Buffing Grains in Lavender, L'Occitane Sucres de Orange** (P1,800), **Origins Salt Body Glow** and **The Body Shop's Grapeseed or Papaya Body Scrub.**

Those with sensitive body skin should wash first and use body scrub on damp skin. My selection is too harsh for you, so I would suggest the gentler but effective ones like **VMV Pampering Peony Scrub, Origins True Grit** and **TBS Cocoa Butter Scrub.**

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



SKIN-LIGHTENING pills, P5,000 for 30 pieces, now on buy-one-take-one promo at Mendez branches

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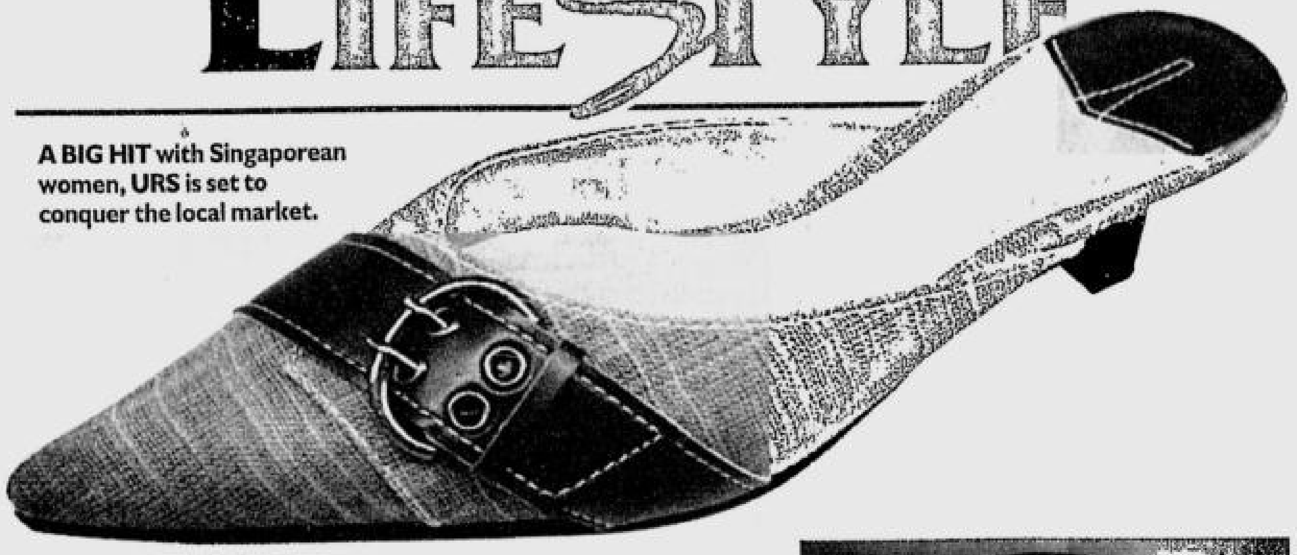
LIFESTYLE

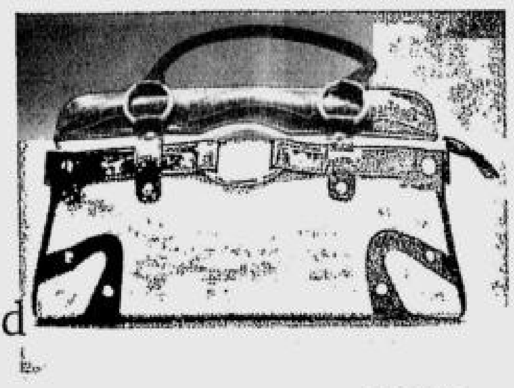


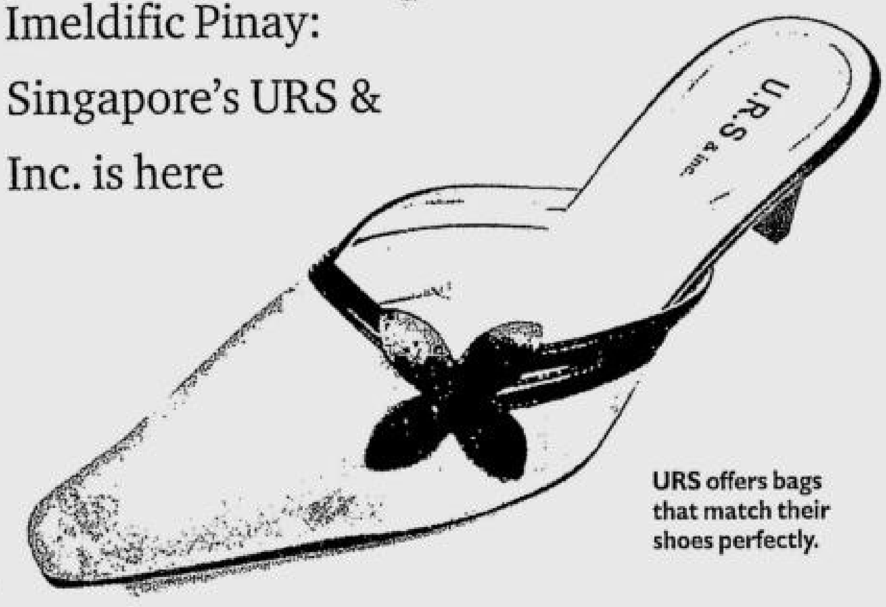
A BIG HIT with Singaporean women, **URS** is set to conquer the local market.

So shoe us

Great news for every bag-crazy and Imeldific Pinay: Singapore's URS & Inc. is here

Text and photos by Pam Pastor





URS offers bags that match their shoes perfectly.

HERE'S great news for every shoe-loving, bag-collecting Filipina: Singapore's URS & Inc. (Unique but Reliable Quality Shoes) is here.

Since it was created in 1997 by Shinji Anno, CEO and managing director of Fashion Street, the brand has become a staple in every stylish Singaporean's closet.

"The concept is to make sure the shoes and bags are trendy and affordable for the average working woman," said Anno.

URS' philosophy of providing women with stylish and reasonably priced shoes and bags that don't compromise on quality seems to be working. The brand has since expanded to Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. Last year alone, it sold 400,000 pairs of shoes. Now that's a lot of happy feet.

Today, thanks to the six enterprising shareholders of Kloset of Shoes Inc.—Virna Tiongco, Vanessa Velasco, Valerie Lopez, Vien Kornerup, Marie Koh and Michelle Ortiz—Filipinas will also get the chance to enjoy quality bags and footwear from URS & Inc.

Already, URS & Inc. has won the hearts of a number of Filipinas. Young professionals have been buying pairs that they can wear both to work and on fun nights out. Students chose this year's school shoes from the Mary Jane-inspired line. Young actresses have also been stocking up on pairs from URS & Inc.

Tempting shelves

A visit to URS' store offers shelf after shelf of temptation for every shoe lover and bag fanatic. Its store in SM Megamall is almost a Mecca for shopaholics, with footwear and bags to suit all kinds of tastes. There are flats and high heels, round-toe and pointed ones, plain and animal prints. The pairs come in different colors, from neutrals to bright hues and eye-catching metallic, all with unique little details.

The bags, which match the shoes perfectly, come in different materials, colors and sizes to fit different needs. New designs come in every month.

URS & Inc. products are comparable to those of popular Western brands but are sold at lower prices. Shoes start at over P1,000 to about P3,000, while the bags go for anywhere between P2,000 and P4,000.

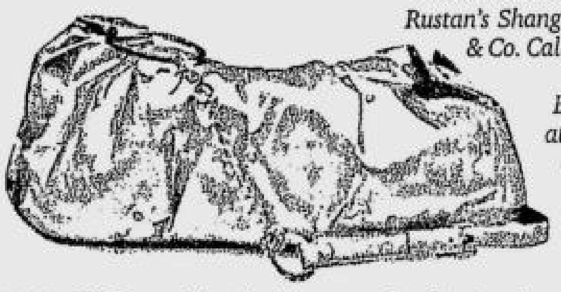
The people behind URS & Inc. stress that their formula is based on customer satisfaction and loyalty and not volume sales. And they're not just about beauty.

"Adorning the shoulders and feet of women who are constantly on the go makes these accessories an intricate feature of women's daily lives," they said.

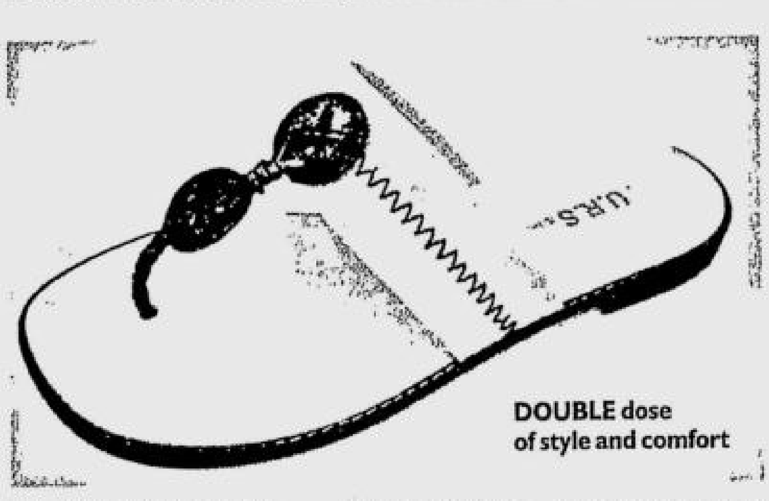
Make no mistake about it, URS & Inc. will soon be part of many women's daily Manila life.

URS & Inc. is at 3/L Megamall B, Rustan's Shangri-La and in Sole & Co. Call 6380028.

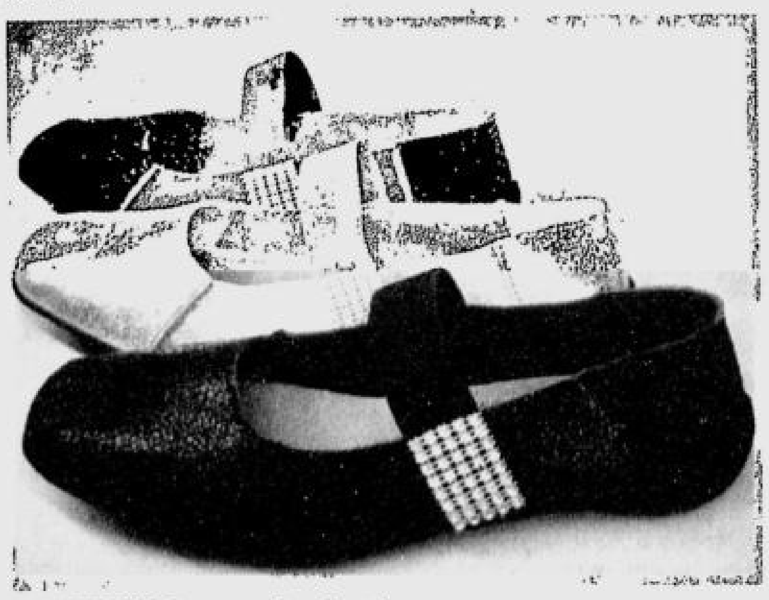
E-mail the author at ppastor @inquirer.com. ph



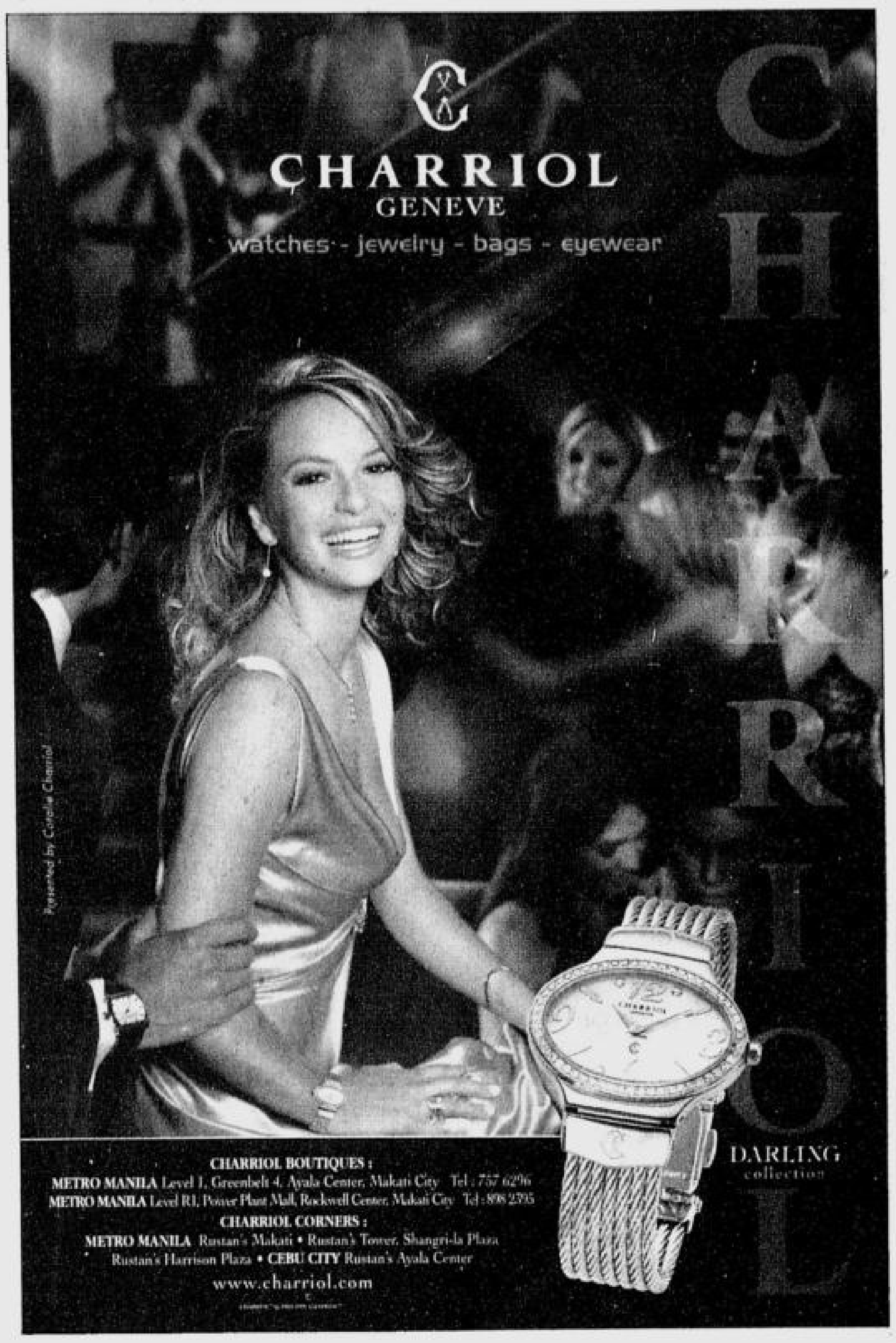
FANS of URS consider their bags works of art and even collect them.



DOUBLE dose of style and comfort



SOMETHING for every shoe fanatic



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WACOAL NEWS!
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Power up your Style

The corporate world poses challenges, especially for us women. Not only must we perform better, we also have to look good.

Let me share with you some simple, yet effective tips on power dressing. Know what fits you and the image you desire to project. Exude the confidence and authority you need to get the job done.

Wear minimal makeup.
Always look neat, fresh, and in control of almost anything with composure.

Accessorize simply.
Wear expensive-looking, yet elegant accessories. A simple stud or pearl earring will do.

The darker, the better.
Rich, dark colors like black, brown and maroon are more formal. If your job requires you to look trustworthy, hues of blue elicit trust.

Cover up.
Avoid too short, low-cut, or tight clothes. Long sleeved tops are power-dressing must-haves. Straight-lined tailored garments will also deliver the same effect.

Invest in your key garments.
Tops made of natural fiber fabrics are more corporate-looking than stretchable ones.

Shoulder to lean on.
You can look dependable and in command with shoulder pads.

Make sure your pants are not too tight.
Skimpy pants look rather casual. Crisp creases make you look in control and trustworthy.

Invest in quality shoes and belts.
These are subtle, yet powerful accessories to enhance your total look. Choose shoes with an elegant and classic shape, in plain, dark colors such as black and brown.

Power from within.
Make sure your underwear fits you and the kind of clothes you are going to wear. A pointed shape brassiere is specifically designed for corporate dressing. It should be able to withstand your suit or sweater's heavy material. Wear stockings with skirts or even with pants. This will add a more professional touch to your look. Make sure that it doesn't snag easily. It should fit you perfectly. It'll give you the support you need to be a confident power dresser.

Power up! Claim your place in the corporate world with your abilities and newfound fashion sense. Just keep these tips in mind. Always look for what best fits you and your image.

Know more about Wacoal's Perfect Fit Campaign. Visit their outlets and have your measurements taken. Know well what fits your body and style.

✂ Cut and present this coupon at any Wacoal counter for a free bag. Hurry while supply lasts

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Signature

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DECO Centrum's Mitos Juarez and Ben Go

LILY and Victor Teh

RJ and Frannie Jacinto

AJINOMOTO Co. president Yutaka Kagaya and Makati Shangri-La's Japanese sales manager Yoko Narumi

GING Acot Teehankee and son Pepper T.

MAKATI Shangri-La's director of communications, Joy Wassmer, with presidential daughter Luli Arroyo and Makati Shangri-La GM Jarlath Lynch

RUBY Gan

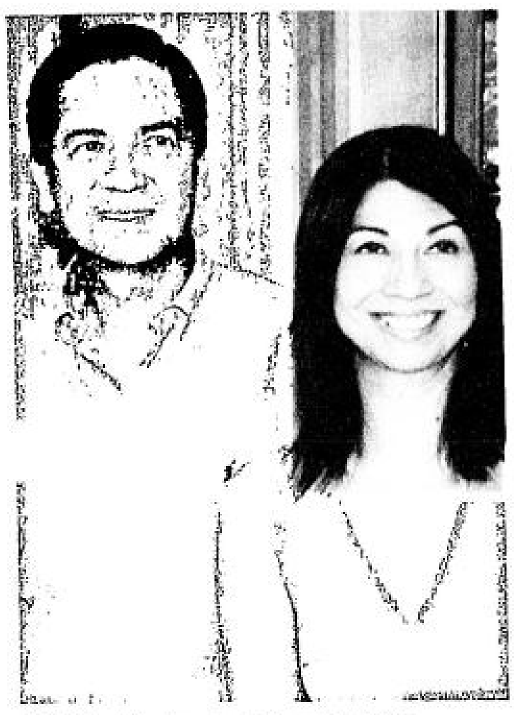
CORY Quirino and Chien Callagham

JIA and Gabby Estrella are expecting their third child soon.

MAKATI Shangri-La director of sales Cecile Weber

CHAMBER of pawnbrokers at the 59th anniversary and induction ball. Jean Henri D. Lhuillier; former PPI president Temistocles Elvina; man of the hour, president of Chamber of Pawnbrokers of the Philippines Luis I. Ablaza Jr.; and laywer Jose P. Tambunting

Legendary Chinese resto reopens with a bang


TALL, brilliant and dashing Tom Zita, president and chair of the Shang Grand Tower Corp., and Joanne Rae Ramirez, top lady of People Asia magazine

TOP gourmet princess and chef Reggie Aspiras

GOOD-LOOKING achiever Jeric Maglanoc, senior sales specialist of the Shang Tower Group

SUPER cool dining room in a two-bedroom unit

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

CHINESE cuisine has always been a favorite of Filipinos, so when Makati Shangri-La's legendary Chinese restaurant, Shang Palace, finally opened its doors *après* a face lift, cosmopolitan society was in attendance.

The renovated place had wrought-iron Chinese lanterns, red carpeting and a fuchsia-draped walkway—marks of distinct class, *palanggas*.

Priceless Chinese art pieces by Lalique from Deco Centrum added a touch of sophistication to the illuminated black pedestals.

During cocktails, classical music mixed with contemporary sounds was performed by the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Excellently prepared canapes and top-of-the-line Chinese wines were served, dahlings.

Proudly welcoming the guests were tall and dashing **Tom Zita**, chair of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts Philippines, and **Jarlath Lynch**, the hotel's general manager.

Haute couturier **Rajo Laurel** beautifully designed the elegant Shang Palace uniforms.

Well-heeled guests included the inimitable **Marietta Santos**; **Ging Acot** and stockbroker **Ely Teehankee**, who came with son **Pepper**; Ambassador **Benedicto** and **Ching Yujuito**; **John Rice**, GM of Edsa Shangri-La; beautiful couple **Donnie** and **Crickette Tantoco**; adorable **Grace Glory Go**; **Barbara** and **William Go** of China Trust Corp.; Rustan's darling **Rhoda Campos** and tall, good-looking **Vince Aldanese**; handsome **JJ Reyes** of Hampshire Place; and **Eric Williams** of Eco-First, *palanggas*.

Excellent Cantonese seafood dishes were served, such as Baked Lobster, Shark's Fin Soup with Shredded Chicken, Stir-Fried Fresh Scallops, Braised Abalone and Pan-Fried Beef Rolled with Golden Mushroom, plus many other Shang Palace specialties.

Many guests enjoyed the food. Wasn't that so Makati Shangri-La Hotel?

Pawnbrokers' party

The popular businessman and vintage car collector, **Luis I. Ablaza Jr.**, was elected president of the Chamber of Pawnbrokers of the Philippines, Inc. (CPPI).

He and the new board welcomed the diplomatic corps and other guests to the 59th anniversary of the CPPI at the Manila Polo Club in Makati, *palanggas*.

The brilliant Louie A. Jr. is serving his seventh term this year. In his welcome speech, he emphasized "the need of the Philippines for entrepreneurs."

"In order for the economy to gain momentum, those Filipinos, especially the young generation, that have the means and capability must start investing in business," he added.

Luis also appealed to then Finance Secretary **Cesar V. Purisima**, the affair's guest of honor, "to help those who are in small and medium enterprise in bringing back the vigor in the economy."

Aside from Ablaza, the new board includes lawyer **Henry Villarica** of Villarica Pawnshop, vice president for internal affairs; **Jean Henri D. Lhuillier** of Cebuana Lhuillier, vice president for external affairs; and **Michelina A. Olondriz**, corporate secretary, *palanggas*.

Super talented **Jun-Jun Ablaza** was the man behind the eye-catching décor of the main ballroom, *palanggas*.

Marcy David and his band provided dance music. The crowd hit and rocked the dance floor for hours.

Now, that's partying, pawnbroker style, *palanggas*.

High living

I experienced condo gourmet cooking when **Reggie Aspiras** invited me to the fabulous Shang Grand Tower showroom in Fort Bonifacio.

Reggie whipped up an excellent sumptuous storm and showed that *foie gras* and roasts are par for the course, even for the condo-challenged.

The Shang Grand Tower, 46-stories tall when finally completed by year's end, will be the ultimate cut in luxury, elegance and comfort. It is rising in full grandeur at the triangular corner of De La Rosa, Perea and Nieva Streets in Legaspi Village.

The structure is a collaboration between Palmer & Turner of Hong Kong and Recio and Casas Architects of Manila. The design is fabulous, dahlings, like a polished, gleaming diamond in the heart of Makati's central business district.

Tom Zita, the hotshot president and chair of the Shang Grand Tower Corp., said, "The Shang Grand Tower project has sold 250 units, with less than 50 up for grabs."

Construction is on track. Target completion is on July 31 for the low-zone, and October 31 for the high-zone.

Tom also said that "the Kuok Group is building their second residential project, the 60-story St. Francis Towers in Mandaluyong City, right next to the Shangri-La Plaza Mall."

But as Tom Z. said, that's another story, *palanggas*.

LINA N. Gison and Robert Linen do a sultry tango.

DIPLO SET includes Ambassador Ifthinhar Hussain Kazmi of Pakistan with wife Nuzhet Kazmi, and Elsi Rekawa with husband Ambassador Ariya Bandara Rekawa of Sri Lanka

MARC Ablaza, the affair's emcee, with wife, gorgeous eye-catcher Tessa Sequia, and Southern lady Nena Casimiro; (standing) elegant woman of substance Nellie Bengzon with businessman Al Casimiro

ANNIVERSAR
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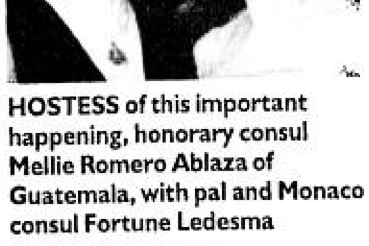
200
GUEST of honor and speaker, former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, receives a plaque of appreciation from Luis I. Ablaza Jr.

ROSEMARIE B. Bonifacio and Victoria F. Villanueva.


HOSTESS of this important happening, honorary consul Mellie Romero Ablaza of Guatemala, with pal and Monaco consul Fortune Ledesma

THE SOCIAL PACK. Karen Macasaet, beauty queen Myrna Borromeo, Thelma Gana, hostess with the mostest Nene Leonor, Lulu Castañeda, Tess Castro and elegant Chacha Camacho

JUDGE Divinagracia B. Ongkeko of RTC Branch 91 of Sta. Cruz, Laguna, is given a plaque of appreciation for her work as director of the chamber from 2001-2004.

KOREAN group promoting Filipino culture pays a courtesy call on Presidential Adviser on Culture Cecilia Guidote Alvarez. She welcomes Rev. Pastor Kim Jee Sul and his associates Kunsik Lee and Song Yong Eui. Vice Consul Jed Dayang (second from left) of the Philippine Embassy in Seoul accompanies the visiting Koreans. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts executives are Maricel Diaz, international affairs officer; and Emily Tiongco, deputy executive director.

Eco fair ongoing

From page G4

4. A specialized seminar for students will be on July 25-26 and Aug. 1-2. Call 9141011 to 14.

FITNESS PROGRAMS. Metropolis Star Alabang's Gym Plus invites everyone to sign up for free aerobics and tai chi programs, held Tuesdays and Thursdays of July, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Call 8504752 local 167.

WORKSHOPS. Kids can enjoy ceramic figurine painting on July 26, 10 a.m., at Starmall Las Piñas' Wellness Hub. A workshop on candle-making will be held July 27, 1 p.m., at the same venue. On July 28, learn how to make hand and finger puppets, 1 p.m., at Metropolis Star Alabang. Call 8725249 (Starmall Las Piñas) and 8503845 (Metropolis Star Alabang).

FOUNDATION DAY. Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls will mark its 13th foundation day on July 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Spirit of Love Catholic Community, Manila Seedling Bank Compound, Edsa cor. Quezon Avenue, QC. Call 5310394 or 5312157.

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RAIN PROOF DON'T LET THE SEASON SPOIL YOUR FUN. COME TO STARMALL AND ENJOY THE MANY INDOOR ACTIVITIES WE HAVE LINED UP.

LAS PIÑAS (872-5249)
July 2, Storytelling at Books for Less
July 8, An Evening with Rico J. Puno
July 12, 26 Ceramic Painting for Kids
July 13, Arts & Crafts for Hobbyists: "Fashion Accessories"
July 16, Star Kids Puppet Show
July 17, 31 Campus Craze Dance Competition
July 20, Badminton Clinic
July 23, Phil. Red Cross CPR demonstration
July 27, Arts and Crafts for Hobbyists: "Candle Making"
July 30, "Whiz Kid" Interschool Quiz Show
Fridays, Acoustic Nights at Mark's Sports Bar

METROPOLIS STAR ALABANG (850-3845)
July 2, Blakdyak Mall Show, 5pm, Trade Hall
July 3, Baywalk Bodies Album Tour, Trade Hall
July 6, 13, 20, 27, Teen Pop Star Search organized by Perfect Rhythm
July 9, Rivermaya with Nina concert, 8pm, 4th/L
July 10, Star Dance Revolution Grand Finals, 4pm, 4th/L
July 14, 28, Arts and Crafts Livelihood, 1pm, 2nd/L
July 16, Rachelle Ann Go Album Tour, 5pm, 4th/L
July 17, Clown and Magic Fun Day at Starland, 3pm
July 30, "WRR Sayawars", 3pm, 4th/L
July 31, Starland's Magic and Mime show
Mondays, Acoustic Nights at Mark's Bar & KTV

EDSA SHAW (718-1886)
July 2, Baywalk Bodies Mall Tour, 2L Activity Area
July 3, Kids Fun Day
July 9, Mike Chan Mall Tour
July 10, Session Road Album Tour
July 16, Chocolate Molding for Kids
July 17, Magic Show featuring Rael
July 24, Nestle Ice Cream presents: Nyoy Volante with Mannos
July 31, Blakdyak Mall tour
Tuesdays, Rappenings at the Mall.
Wednesdays and Fridays, Acoustic Nights at the Bridge
Fridays, Latino Nights at Cuba Libre

starmall
Stay awhile.

Eco fair ongoing

AN ECO-TRADE fair is ongoing until tomorrow at the Environmental Science Institute grounds in Miriam College, along Katipunan Road, Loyola Heights, QC. The fair is from 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. It is open to the public. Call 5805400 to 29 (local 3560) or 9205093.

DESIGN SHOW. British Council Philippines marks its silver anniversary with a grand design showcase featuring young Filipino designers today at the Grand Atrium of Shangri-La Plaza Makati. Call 9141011 to 14.

GOINGS ON

PROMO. Win "Battlestar Galactica" posters and water bottles with every purchase of any size of Seattle's Best Cookie Javakula. Visit Seattle's Best Coffee branches and experience Cookie Javakula: toddy coffee, nonfat milk, vanilla and Oreo cookies blended with ice. For Seattle's Best VIP Cardholders, you are invited to a marathon re-screening of "Battlestar Galactica's Beginning" and "Mission 1" episodes in Seattle's Best Greenbelt 3 today, 8 p.m.-12:45 a.m. Just present your SBC VIP card to any SBC branch to get your pair of tickets.

BRIDAL FAIR. Century Park Hotel presents a bridal fair today and tomorrow, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Attendees of the event will get a chance to win accommodations to different resorts and hotels in Baguio, Batangas, Tagaytay, Palawan, Boracay, Cebu, Bohol and Davao and round-trip tickets to Kalibo, Cebu, Taipei, Athens or a four-day Asian cruise. Call 5285871 to 73.

DANCE. Ballet at the Park features Ballet Manila and Kultura Pilipina tomorrow at 5 p.m. at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

SALE. Power Plant Mall in Makati and Market! Market! in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig will hold a sale today until July 17.

CONCERT. "Concert at the Park" presents the Centro Escolar University Pop Orchestra under the music direction of Tom Nazareno. The musical will be held July 17, 5 p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

WORKSHOPS. The Communication Foundation for Asia offers the following workshops: Radio Voice Acting and Dubbing Workshop, July 15-16; Scriptwriting for TV and Film, July 19, 21, 26 and 28; A Parent's Guide to Raising Great Kids, July 23; and How to Start and Operate Your Own Business, July 30. All workshops will be held at CFA Building, 4427 Interior Old Sta. Mesa, Manila. Call 7132732, 7147233 or 7132981.

CONTEST. The National Library of the Philippines and Alitaptap Storytellers Philippines invite enrolled college students to the First Inter-College Storytelling Competition. Tomorrow's the registration deadline. Elimination will be held July 23 and grand finals on July 24 at National Library Auditorium. Call 5354689 or 0917-5392630.

AUDITION. The Philippine Music Training School is looking for PMTS Power Pop Girls members. Audition is set July 16-17 at 117-A S. Macaya St., Barangay Pasong Tamo, Tandang Sora, QC. Call 4540078.

SALE-EXHIBIT. AVSurfer, located in Robinson's Metro East Mall, Cainta, Rizal, holds a sale-exhibit until July 17. A free tripod and bag comes with every purchase of Panasonic DVD camcorder. Call 6472272.

EXPO. The 2nd Intervals Events and Productions presents the Philippine Ecological Expo 2005 until July 17 at Expo Exchange, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 5254683, 5251297 or 5362786.

BAZAAR. Shop@the fort will be held July 16-17 at NBC Tent. Shop@Le Pav will be held July 30-31 at Le Pavilion, Metropolitan Park, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Both bazaars are open 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

SYMPOSIUM. The Women and Spirituality Committee and the Historical Research Committee of the NGO-GO National Network for the Feminist Centennial invite you to The Babaylan Symposium on July 22, 8-5 p.m., at Caridad Barrion Hall, St. Scholastica's College, 2560 Leon Guinto Street, Manila. Registration fee is P500 (P250 for students), inclusive of lunch and *merienda*. Call 5247686 local 279, 5216385 or 5223551.

BRITISH Council will hold pre-departure briefing for UK-bound Filipinos on July 25-27 and Aug. 3-

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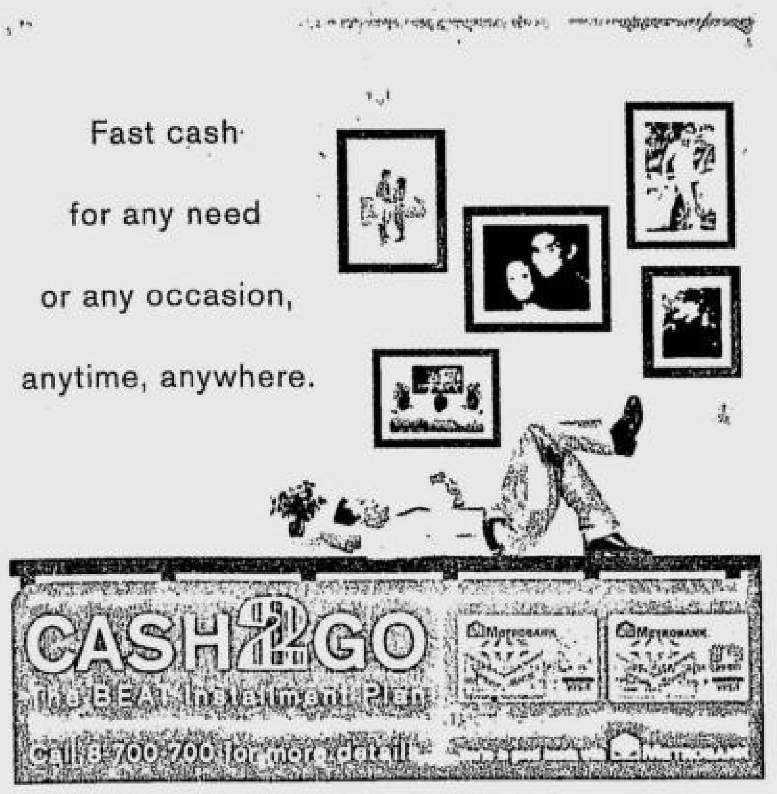
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Basic Pattern July 31 2-6PM
Fee-P750.each (materials included).
Can be credited towards the full fee for a course
Reservations required.
July-August Schedule
Daily Classes: (1 month to complete 4 courses)
Basic Fashion Design -Jul18-28 MWF 9-6
Basic Pattern Making -Jul19-29 TThS 9-6
Advance Pattern -Aug1-6 Mon. To Sat. 9-6
Haute Couture -Aug8-13 Mon. To Sat. 9-6
P8000./course
P7200./course if enrolled in 2 courses
P6500./course (P26,000) Designer Package - if enrolled in 4 courses
Once-a-week Schedule:
Basic Fashion Design -starts Aug22 (6 Mon.) 9-6
Basic Pattern Making -starts Aug23 (6 Tue.) 9-6
Men's Wear -starts Aug22 (6 Mon.) 9-6
Children's Wear -starts Aug26 (6 Fri.) 9-6
Saturday Schedule:
Basic Fashion Design -starts Aug27 (12 Sat.) 9-1
Basic Pattern Making -starts Aug27 (12 Sat.) 2-6
Sewing - Schedule of your choice. P6000.
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1 San Miguel Ave. Cor. Shaw Blvd. Unit 2803

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Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Though there are no hard and fast fashion rules, you have to avoid certain foibles to look your best and feel confident

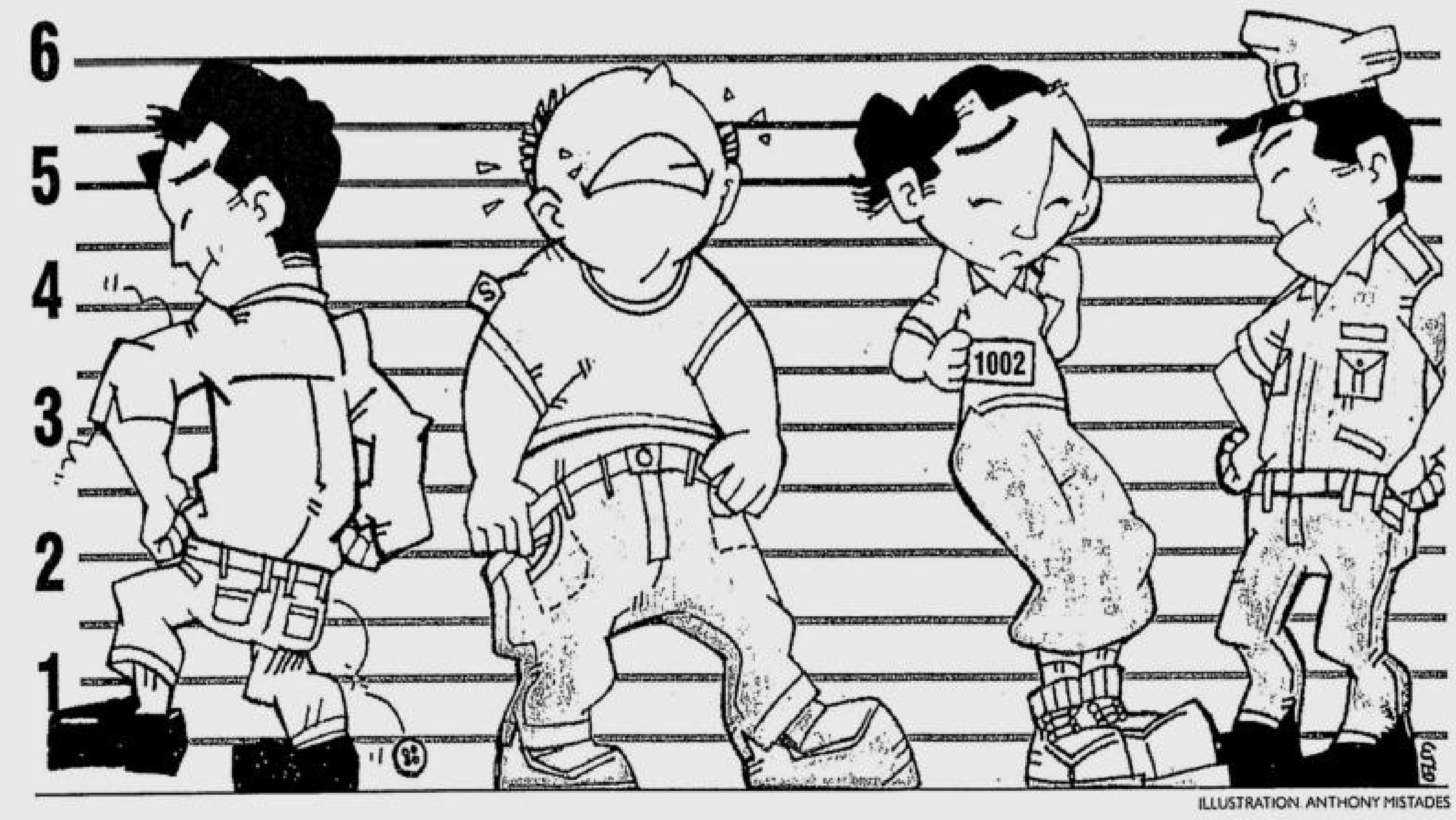

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

Crimes of fashion

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

THE WAY you look can reflect your self-esteem and capabilities. So, it is essential to take care of your general appearance—your grooming and, to be more specific, your manner of dressing.

Although there are no hard and fast fashion rules nowadays, there are still a number of fashion foibles that you must avoid in order to look your best and feel confident.

Here are some of the most common "crimes of fashion" that I've encountered in my years as an image-enhancement consultant. Hopefully, these can help you avoid potentially embarrassing fashion disasters.

[illegible] y of any of these?

[illegible]

One of the keys to dressing well is wearing clothing that fit perfectly and show you off in your best light. When clothing is too snug, too baggy, too short or too long, it is instantly unflattering.

The best thing to do is to find a good tailor who can alter pieces that need a bit of a tweak. You can try Alterations Plus, which is located in most of the major shopping malls. Their services cost as low as P140 for a hemline adjustment, and up. It's well worth the additional expense, considering that the proper fit can make your pieces look classier and more expensive.

If a tweak does not improve the fit of a particular garment, then it's probably time to give it away.

Visible panty lines

VPLs and underwear sightings should be a thing of the past but unfortunately, there are still those who constantly commit these fashion felonies. There's simply no excuse, as there are endless choices of thongs and strapless or low-back bras out in the local market. So, holdouts who still refuse to don thongs should start purchasing a couple.

Make sure you consider your underwear's color and texture, as well. Even pastel-colored thongs might be seen under a pair of cream-colored pants. And lace or seams just might ruin a smooth look. Skin-toned underwear is always the safest option when coverage is a consideration.

Clothes in disrepair

Missing buttons, holes, rips, hanging hemlines and the like are all unacceptable. When it comes to clothing, please, do sweat the small stuff and pay attention to the tiniest details that spell the difference between groomed and well, an eyesore of a mess.

You can have a tailor do minor repairs or better yet, keep a sewing kit handy. Double-sided tape is also helpful for the temporary repair of hanging hemlines. And it's a good idea to keep sticky rollers on hand to remove lint or fuzzy pet hair.

Wearing clothing with unsightly stains and spots is a no-no! To avoid staining your garments, have them laundered or dry-cleaned right after you wear them. Deodorants, perfumes and other such chemicals can leave marks on fabric.

There are also quite a number of store-bought bleaches that you can [illegible] spots in [illegible] stain removers are now available for white or colored materials.

Do bear in mind that there are different remedies for various types of stains. For example, talcum powder or soda water is practical first aid for oil stains while a combination of detergent and vinegar is perfect for tannin stains caused by red wine, ketchup, coffee and the like.

Sordid shoes

Shoes can definitely make or break an outfit so shod yourself in a decent pair. Your footwear must always be clean, well-shined and in good condition.

Every now and then, it's also good to break out of the mold by wearing something out of the ordinary. For example, don a pair of bright-yellow pumps instead of your usual black ones. Or throw away those raggedy flip flops for a pair of dazzling bejeweled sandals.

'Bilbil' blast

Flab, especially around the stomach area, is a major problem for a number of women. If you are challenged in this department, then do avoid wearing skintight numbers that only emphasize the obvious.

Instead, try donning blousons or empire cut tops and dresses that are all the fashion rage. Or try layering by wearing a tank under a looser tee. Remember that one secret to dressing well is knowing your flaws and how to disguise them while playing up your best features.

Not being you!

The most important element of dressing well is being yourself. Express your individuality through fashion by donning pieces that reflect who you are. Do not follow trends if they don't suit your personality, body type and age.

Truly stylish people know themselves and understand that their appearance is one way of communicating their unique beauty and talent.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

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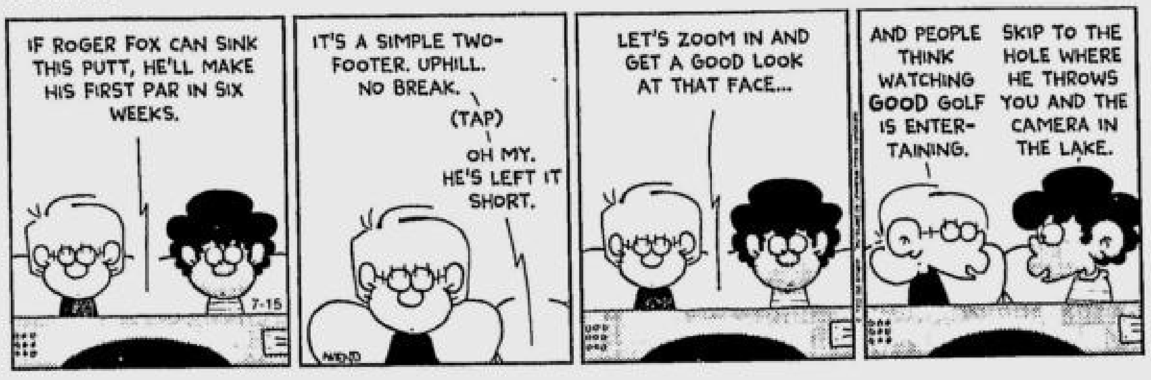
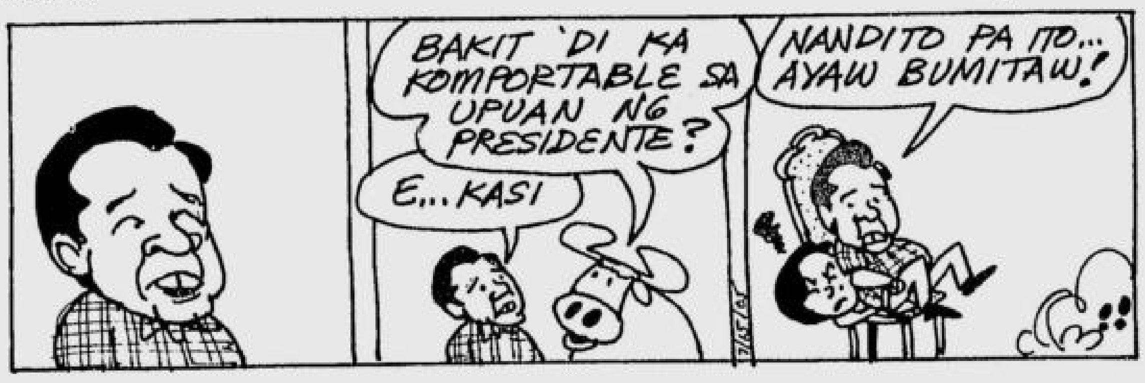
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


IF ROGER FOX CAN SINK THIS PUTT, HE'LL MAKE HIS FIRST PAR IN SIX WEEKS.
IT'S A SIMPLE TWO-FOOTER. UPHILL. NO BREAK.
(TAP)
OH MY. HE'S LEFT IT SHORT.
LET'S ZOOM IN AND GET A GOOD LOOK AT THAT FACE...
AND PEOPLE THINK WATCHING GOOD GOLF IS ENTERTAINING.
SKIP TO THE HOLE WHERE HE THROWS YOU AND THE CAMERA IN THE LAKE.
7-15

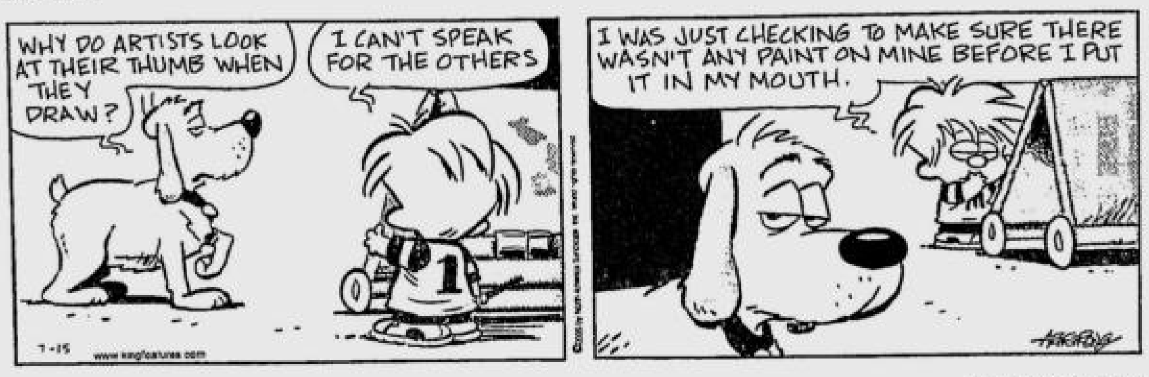
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT 'DI KA KOMPORTABLE SA UPUAN NG PRESIDENTE?
E... KASI
NANDITO PA ITO... AYAW BUMITAW!

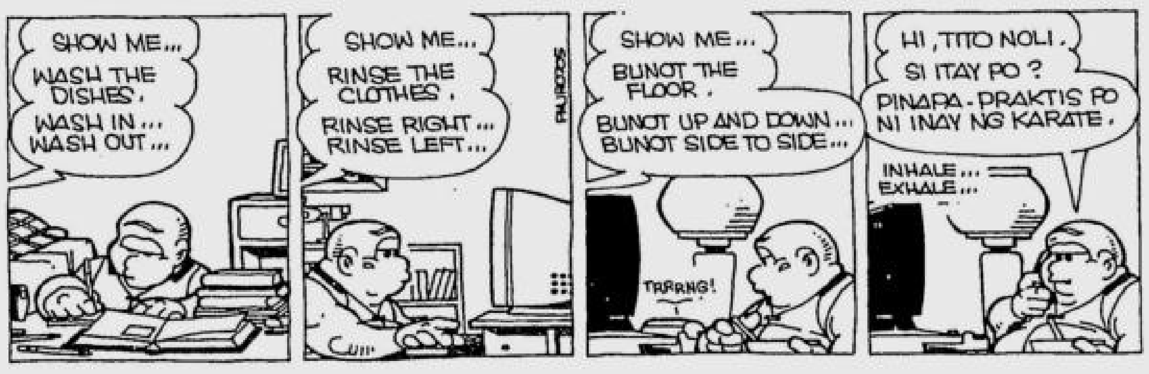
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHY DO ARTISTS LOOK AT THEIR THUMB WHEN THEY DRAW?
I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE OTHERS
I WAS JUST CHECKING TO MAKE SURE THERE WASN'T ANY PAINT ON MINE BEFORE I PUT IT IN MY MOUTH.
7-15
www.kingfeatures.com

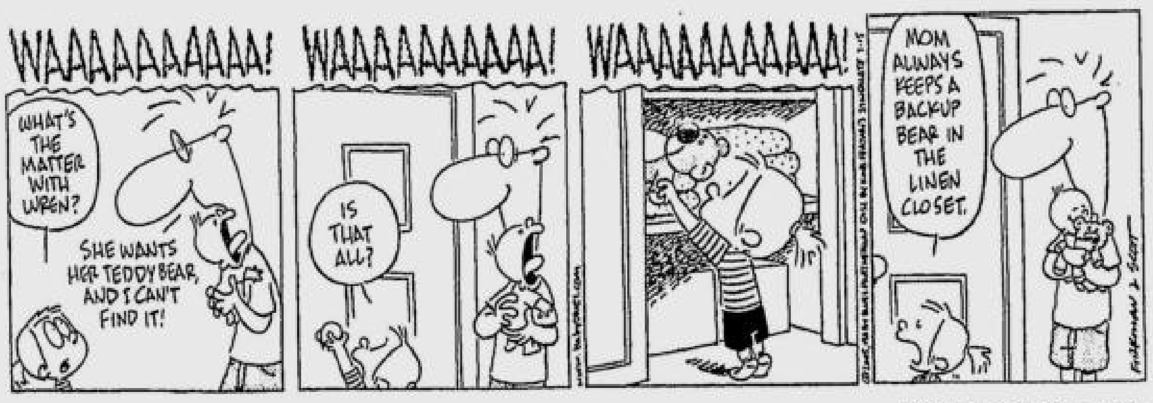
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SHOW ME... WASH THE DISHES. WASH IN... WASH OUT...
SHOW ME... RINSE THE CLOTHES. RINSE RIGHT... RINSE LEFT...
SHOW ME... BUNOT THE FLOOR. BUNOT UP AND DOWN... BUNOT SIDE TO SIDE...
TRRRING!
HI, TITO NOLI. SI ITAY PO? PINAPA-PRAKTIS PO NI INAY NG KARATE.
INHALE... EXHALE...

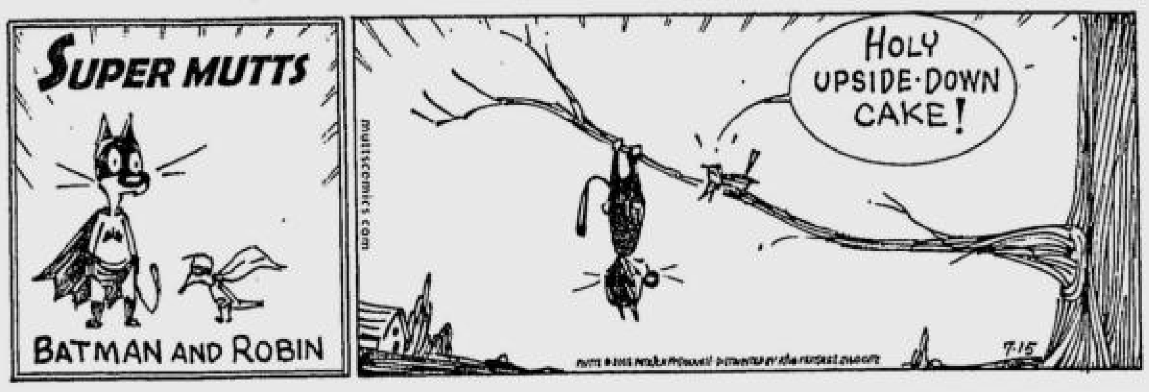
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WAAAAAAAAAA!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH WREN?
SHE WANTS HER TEDDY BEAR, AND I CAN'T FIND IT!
WAAAAAAAAAA!
IS THAT ALL?
WAAAAAAAAAAA!
MOM ALWAYS KEEPS A BACKUP BEAR IN THE LINEN CLOSET.

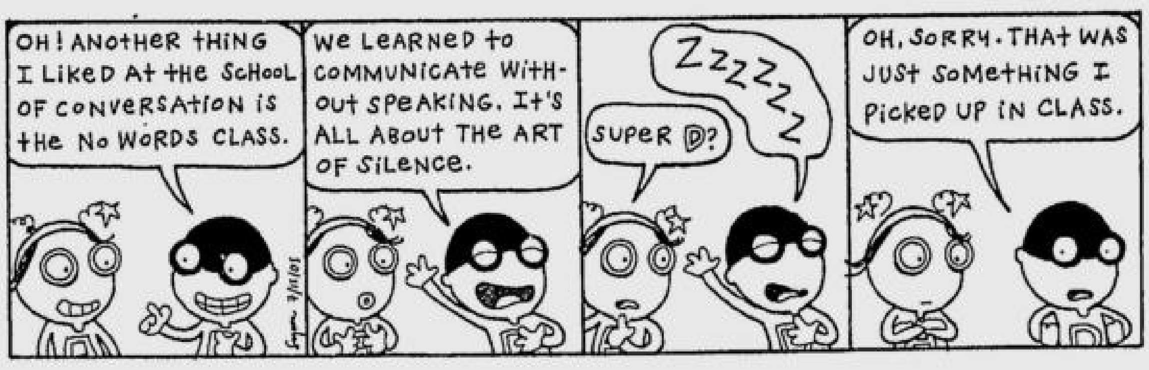
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SUPER MUTTS
BATMAN AND ROBIN
HOLY UPSIDE-DOWN CAKE!
muttscomics.com
7-15

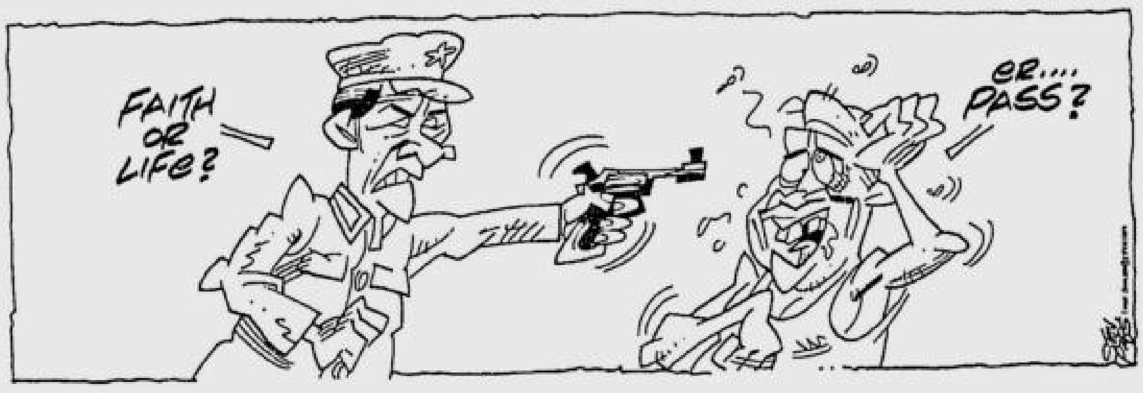
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH! ANOTHER THING I LIKED AT THE SCHOOL OF CONVERSATION IS THE NO WORDS CLASS.
WE LEARNED TO COMMUNICATE WITHOUT SPEAKING. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ART OF SILENCE.
SUPER D?
ZZZZZZ
OH, SORRY. THAT WAS JUST SOMETHING I PICKED UP IN CLASS.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


FAITH OR LIFE?
ER.... PASS?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Because you easily inspire others, you have the power to change your surroundings and your environment. You do this through the efforts of others. Ironically, this makes you responsible for people. Fortunately, you have a strong set of ethics. Focus on your closest partnerships and relationships this year. This area needs your attention! Birthdate of: Forest Whitaker, actor; Linda Ronstadt, singer; Lolita Davidovich, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): More and more, you'll find that you're seeking a more rewarding lifestyle or career. The next few years will offer you an opportunity to figure out what you want to be when you grow up.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It's time to think seriously about where you live. Try to buy or sell. Do renovations and repairs to your home. You need to establish a solid anchor for yourself in the world.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're entering a two-year window when you'll likely make a residential move or a job change. This is something you can look forward to. You like change!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're thinking about how you want to earn your money. You're also trying to establish a values system that will serve you well. Therefore, you need to know what really matters in life.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Saturn now enters your sign, which is a signal that you're entering a whole new sandbox in your life. Things are different. You might even change your daily wardrobe.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): There's no question that in the next few years, you'll be saying goodbye to people, jobs, places and possessions. It's time to streamline what you own to get ready for something new in the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your participation with groups will likely increase in the next few years. You want to be involved in something bigger than yourself. You want to make a difference!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're entering one of the most powerful times of your life. In the next few years, you will see the harvest of all the seeds you've planted.

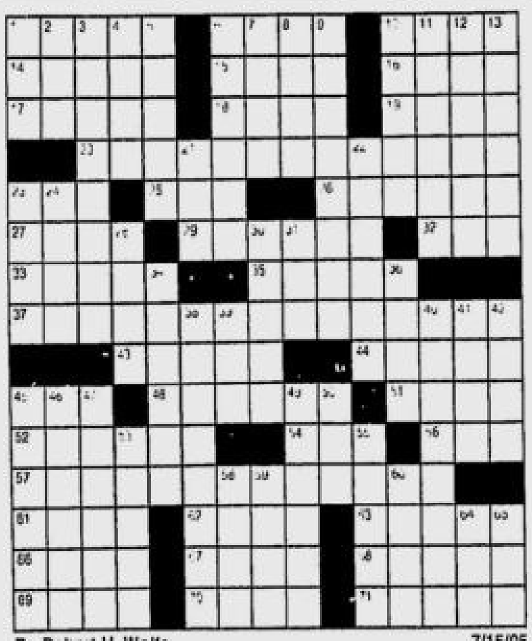
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Think about ways that you can improve your career or your station in life through education, training and travel. You haven't learned everything (not yet).

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Because your partner might change jobs or something similar, you have to rely more on yourself in the coming year. You can do this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is definitely a time of testing for your closest relationships and partnerships. Those that are meant to be will endure. Those that should finish will end.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Get ready for hard work. Suddenly, you're determined to prove to yourself and the world just what you can do!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY
7/15/05

ACROSS
1 Ran easily
6 Songwriter Sammy
10 "__ the night before..."
14 Sheltered from the sun
15 Toast topping
16 Hand gesture
17 Of musical sounds
18 Trumpet or trombone
19 Notion from the tete?
20 Novice dogs in the ring?
23 Step into character
25 Neither fish __ fowl
26 Painter or sculptor
27 Shoe part
29 Actress Wright
32 Classic leader?
33 Candidate Stevenson
35 Leaves out
37 Kirk's command to a dog?
43 Trunk item
44 Tried for another term
45 Apple seed
48 Egyptian deity
51 Moving air
52 Full of anxiety
54 Seize suddenly
56 Capital of Spain?
57 Outside-shooting dogs?
61 Get smart with
62 "__ Karenina"
63 Use more lubricant
66 Spicy stew
67 Penny
68 Draw out
69 Type of tide
70 Otherwise
71 Carried along

DOWN
1 D-Day craft
2 Exclamation of surprise
3 Slender cigar
4 Dutch cheese
5 Poet Thomas
6 Stick
7 Moises of baseball
8 German mister
9 Not of primary importance
10 Between, poetically
11 Get one's feet wet
12 Opposed
13 Handles
21 Wee one
22 Fine speaker
23 "Moby Dick" character
24 Relinquish formally
28 Cuts and runs
30 One with a lasso
31 Printing measures
34 Wear out the welcome mat
36 Be in a huff
38 Jog, e.g.
39 Swiss canton
40 Samples
41 McKellen and Fleming
42 Conclusions
45 Dons
46 Take a breath
47 Iran, once
49 Present at birth
50 Took seats
53 Fable writer
55 Soft cap
58 Like Nash's lama
59 Lodges
60 Make over
64 Clinch
65 Was in front

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	R	E	D	O	■	S	E	R	B	S	■	I	L	L
L	O	G	I	C	■	T	R	A	I	T	■	C	O	O
A	S	Y	N	O	N	Y	M	I	S	A	■	O	U	T
R	I	P	■	N	O	L	A	N	■	R	E	N	T	S
E	N	T	E	N	T	E	■	C	O	T	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	W	O	R	D	Y	O	U	U	S	E	I	F
V	O	L	A	R	E	■	E	A	R	P	■	T	O	E
A	M	I	N	■	■	N	A	T	■	■	I	O	N	E
R	O	E	■	P	O	O	R	■	R	U	I	N	E	D
Y	O	U	C	A	N	T	S	P	E	L	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	I	S	A	■	R	A	S	S	L	E	S
C	A	J	U	N	■	B	R	A	C	T	■	O	R	E
O	N	E	■	T	H	E	O	T	H	E	R	O	N	E
P	T	A	■	E	R	N	I	E	■	R	I	M	E	D
Y	E	N	■	R	E	E	L	S	■	S	A	S	S	Y

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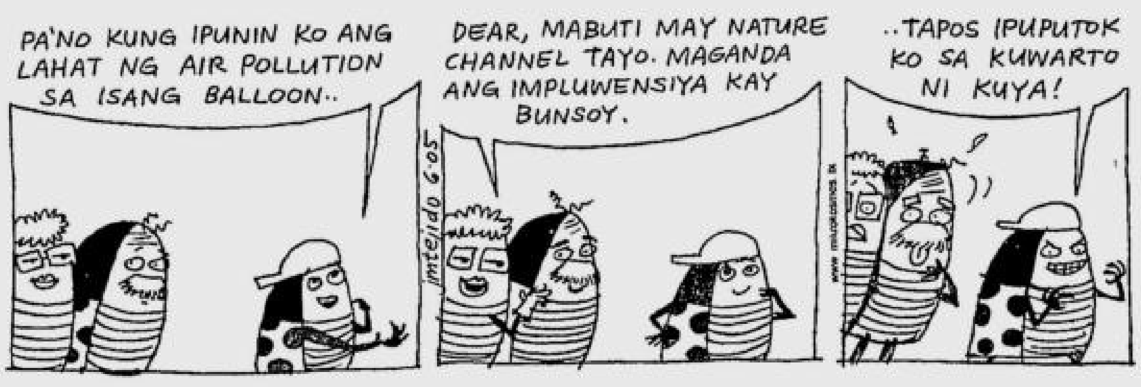
7/15/05

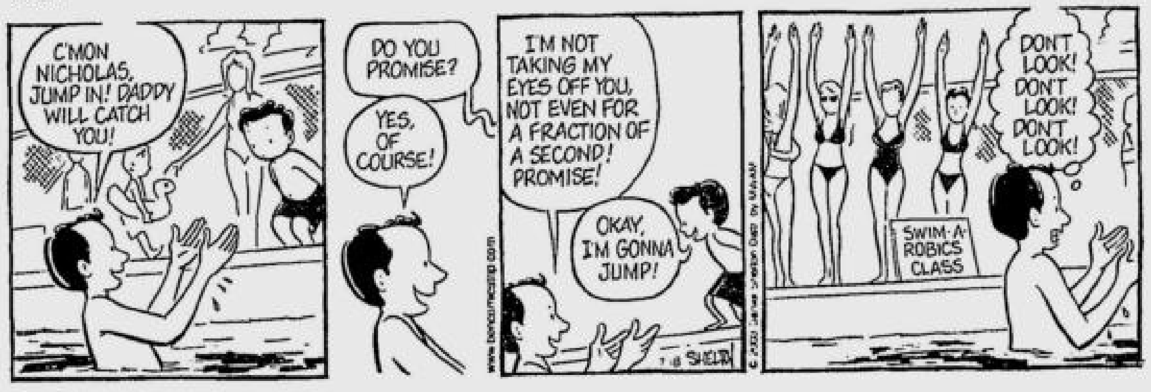
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PA'NO KUNG IPUNIN KO ANG LAHAT NG AIR POLLUTION SA ISANG BALLOON..
DEAR, MABUTI MAY NATURE CHANNEL TAYO. MAGANDA ANG IMPLUWENSIYA KAY BUNSOY.
..TAPOS IPUPUTOK KO SA KUWARTO NI KUYA!
mtejido 6.05

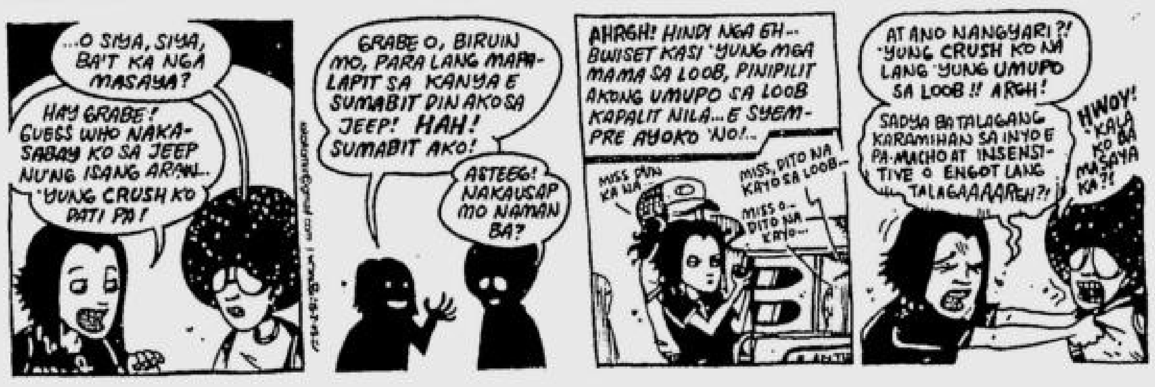
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


C'MON NICHOLAS, JUMP IN! DADDY WILL CATCH YOU!
DO YOU PROMISE?
YES, OF COURSE!
I'M NOT TAKING MY EYES OFF YOU, NOT EVEN FOR A FRACTION OF A SECOND! PROMISE!
OKAY, I'M GONNA JUMP!
DON'T LOOK! DON'T LOOK! DON'T LOOK!
SWIM-A-ROBICS CLASS
SHELTON

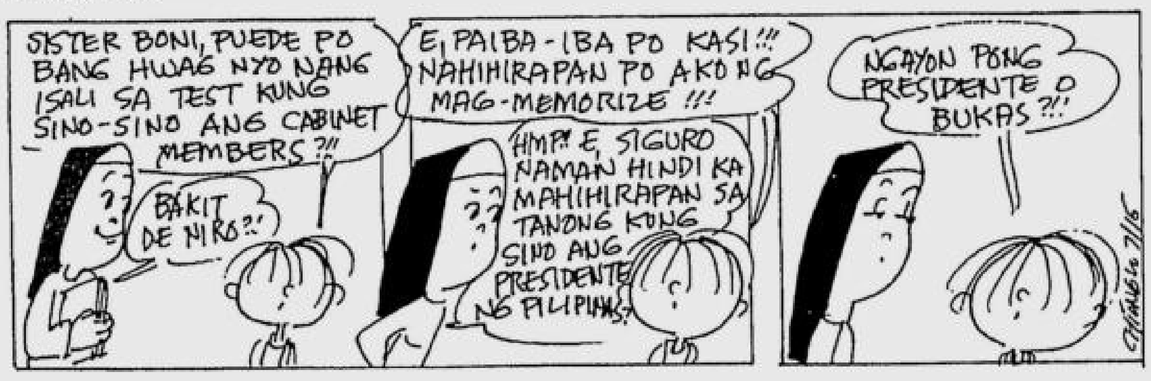
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


...O SIYA, SIYA, BA'T KA NGA MASAYA?
HAY GRABE! GUESS WHO NAKASABAY KO SA JEEP NU'NG ISANG ARAW... 'YUNG CRUSH KO DATI PA!
GRABE O, BIRUIN MO, PARA LANG MAPALAPIT SA KANYA E SUMABIT DIN AKO SA JEEP! HAH! SUMABIT AKO!
ASTEEG! NAKAUSAP MO NAMAN BA?
AHRGH! HINDI NGA EH-- BWISET KASI 'YUNG MGA MAMA SA LOOB, PINIPILIT AKONG UMUPO SA LOOB KAPALIT NILA... E SYEMPRE AYOKO 'NO!..
MISS, DITO NA KAYO SA LOOB--
MISS O-- DITO NA KAYO--
AT ANO NANGYARI?! 'YUNG CRUSH KO NA LANG 'YUNG UMUPO SA LOOB!! ARGH!
SADYA BA TALAGANG KARAMIHAN SA INYO E PA-MACHO AT INSENSITIVE O ENGOT LANG TALAGAAAARGH?!
HWOY! KALA KO BA MASAYA KA?!

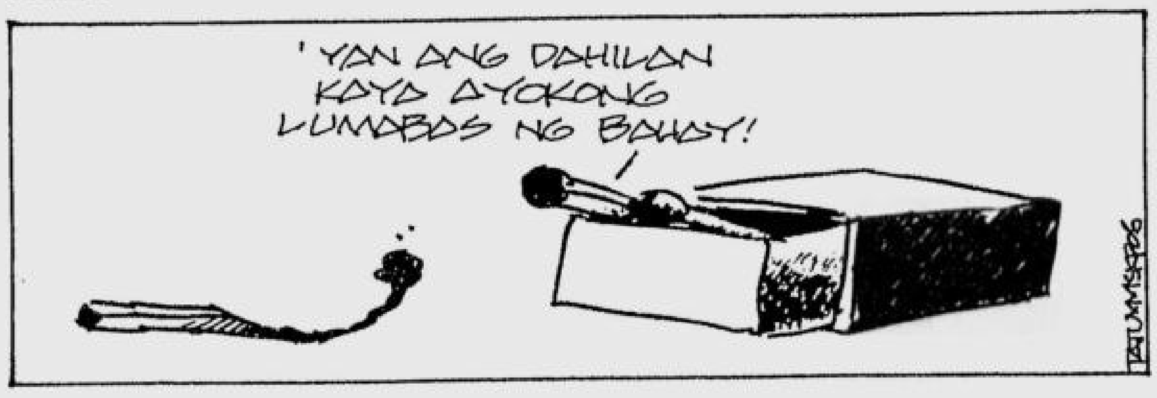
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SISTER BONI, PUEDE PO BANG HWAG NYO NANG ISALI SA TEST KUNG SINO-SINO ANG CABINET MEMBERS?!!
BAKIT DE NIRO?!
E, PAIBA-IBA PO KASI!!! NAHIHIRAPAN PO AKONG MAG-MEMORIZE!!!
HMP! E, SIGURO NAMAN HINDI KA MAHIHIRAPAN SA TANONG KUNG SINO ANG PRESIDENTE NG PILIPINAS?
NGAYON PONG PRESIDENTE O BUKAS?!!
CHIONGLO 7/15

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'YAN ANG DAHILAN KAYA AYOKONG LUMABAS NG BAHAY!
TATUM MILAMBILING

BE HIP and happening with the new Levi's collection.

ALIYA shows off her very first pair of 501.

New denim dream store

LEVI'S recently opened its latest Philippine store at the Shangri-La Mall. It also launched brand-new styles, including the Limited Edition 501 Scarred Jeans (truly limited with each pair individually numbered), and a new promo called the Levi's 501 Scarred and Proud Promo.

The promo encourages Levi's devotees to be proud of their scars and get a chance to win Levi's Denim Planners, Limited Edition Levi's 501, gift certificates and an iPod Mini.

"Levi's started in the country in '72, and, primarily, it was for the export market with very little domestic business," explained country manager Monch Martelino.

But Filipinos quickly caught on, and the local market has grown robustly. "We were only selling in multi-brand outlets like department stores, then in the late '80s we started doing stand-alone shops. Since then, the concept has continued to evolve," said Martelino.

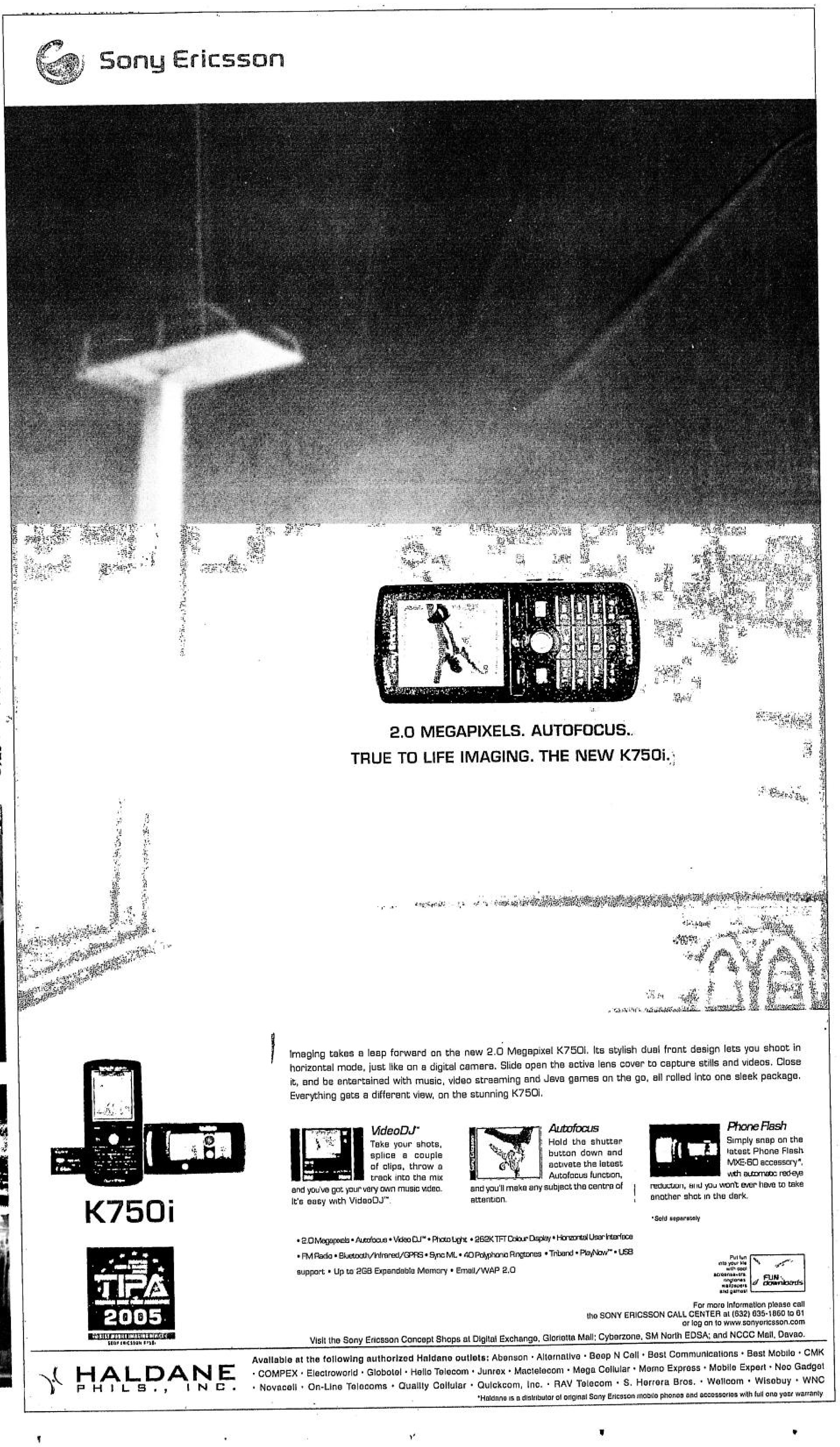
Remember when shopping for a new pair of jeans meant attacking shelf after shelf of folded-up merchandise and basically making a mess of things until you luck out on the ones you want? Well, the new Levi's store concept has taken care of that.

For the store's opening, the façade was covered in denim curtains, with owners Tessie and Owen Lee and Martelino each grabbing a handful of the fabric to open the store. When the curtain was pulled away, gorgeous models stepped out, dressed in various Levi's getups. A high-energy fashion show showcased the new styles, including the brand new Levi's Limited Edition 501 Scarred Jeans, created in celebration of 501 Day. 501 stands for the 1st day of the 5th month, May 1, the exact date 150 years ago when denim was invented.

Celebrity guests included singer and model Aliya Parcs, who used to work for a boutique in Amsterdam that sold Levi's jeans; TV host Christian Esteban, who, when he was just starting out in showbiz as a Starstruck hopeful, only had a single pair of jeans to his name—Levi's, of course; and actor Dion Ignacio, another Levi's lover.

GET ecstatic over loads of denim.

STARSTRUCK'S Christian Esteban makes Levi's his choice.



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TIPA 2005

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PROMO PERIOD: JULY 1 TO 31, 2005
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 3047 SERIES OF 2005

CLAUDINE tries on Timex's latest sports watch.

TIMEX'S latest casual watch for ladies

Claudine Barretto gets real

GLAMOROUS Timex image models Claudine Barretto, Marc Nelson and Piolo Pascual are featured in "Real Time, Real People," the watch brand's new ad campaign that focuses on the celebrity endorsers as ordinary persons, away from the spotlight and the public eye.

Barretto has a soap opera on TV, does at least a movie every year, and make a few product endorsements. But she remains a public figure with mass following. She won the best actress award at the Film Academy of the Philippines this year for her movie with Piolo Pascual, "Milan," which has been showing in international film festivals, most notably, the recent Cannes Film Festival.

"I only do one movie a year, but I make sure that it's a movie that people will remember," Barretto said. This year, her latest movie, "Nasaan Ka Man," has enjoyed critical acclaim.

"Film is supposed to be fulfilling," she said. "So even in the products you endorse, the movies that you do, I make it a point to really prepare. I study the script and I make sure that my role can't be compared or have similarities with other roles that I've done."

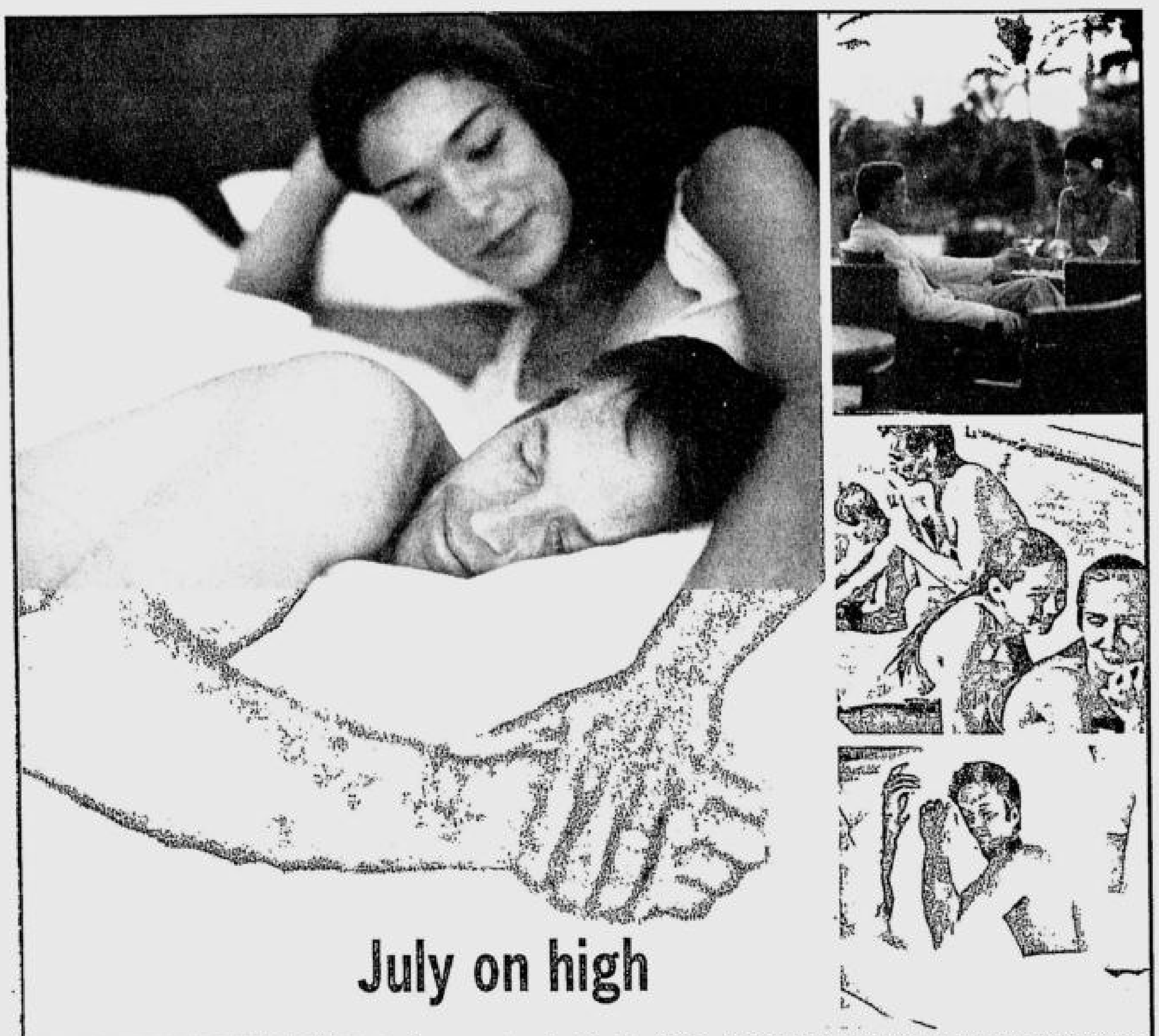
"I chose to endorse Timex, because I really like the watches," Barretto said. She said Timex could go with casual or formal outfits. "I only endorse the things that I really like and the things that I really really use, or the things that I can use and wear. Otherwise, *niloloko ko lang sarili ko*."

Even at a young age of 26, Barretto has taken control of her career and her life. Beyond fame, however, she makes sure that she has time for more important things, such as church, friends and family—especially her adopted daughter, Sabina. This is Claudine Barretto in "Real Time."

BONDING time with furry co-star Tickle

SM CITY SAN LAZARO OPENS TODAY

SM Prime opens its 20th supermall, SM City San Lazaro, to the public today. The mall is at a 4-ha property at AH Lacson cor Felix Huertas Sts. at northeastern Manila. The four-level mall features a department store, supermarket, food court and cinema, fashion boutiques, novelty shops, home stores, book stores, specialty restos, computer stores, telecom centers and Internet cafes.



July on high

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JULY 15, 2005, FRIDAY

10am Opening Ceremonies
Ribbon Cutting with
Guests of Honor-
Dr. Lucio Tan &
Manila Mayor Lito Atienza
As accompanied by
Century Park Hotel
Executive Vice President T.K. Tan
and Century Park Hotel
General Manager Paul Gill

3pm -"Getting Ready for the Big Day",
by: Ms. Tin Tin Bersola-Babao
(TV Personality, ABS CBN's
Magandang Umaga Pilipinas)

6pm Performance of Wedding
Entertainers/Musicians
Wedding Singers from the
Top of the Century
Performance of
Coro de San Benildo

Bridal Fashion Show
Featuring the
Students of De La Salle
College of St. Benilde
Institute of Fashion Design and
Merchandising Program
As donned by professional models
(Alumnus' of DLSU)

JULY 16, 2005, SATURDAY

1pm Wedding Talks
For Soon To Be Wed Couples
at the Grand Ballroom
(Hosted by: ABS CBN's
Bianca Gonzales)

-"Radiant Bride, Radiant Beauty",
by: Ms. Cory Quirino
(Philippine Daily Inquirer Health &
Wellness Columnist)

-"Yah Mo Be There",
by: Father Richard Bulaton,
Archdiocese of Manila, Opus Dei
A talk on spirituality for the
soon to be wed couple

-"To Nip Tuck or not to Nip Tuck"
by: Dr. Bong Buencamino of Dermclinic

-"Laws Of Attraction",
by: husband & wife team-
U.P. College of Law
Prof. Danny Concepcion &
Atty. Gaby Roldan-Concepcion
(legal advisor, GMA7'S Unang Hirit)
A talk on legal matters &
other pre-nuptial agreements

-"Our First Steps",
by: Mr. Boyet Sison
(GMA7's Penthouse Live in 1980s)
A short and simple guide in
basic dancing - Waltz, Swing & Cha Cha

6pm Cocktail Reception before the
Bridal Fashion Show
Music by: Century String Ensemble
(Concessionaires' Hall, Lower Lobby)

7pm Manila's Bridal Fair of the Century
Bridal Fashion Show

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER:

By Enrico Daroy

FROM a favorite haunt of the affluent to a haven for bargain hunters, Greenhills Shopping Center (GSC) has continued to evolve throughout the years in response to the changing times and to demands of the market. Now, it is undergoing the latest phase in its evolution-becoming a modern complex that has something for everyone, and yet still uniquely Greenhills.

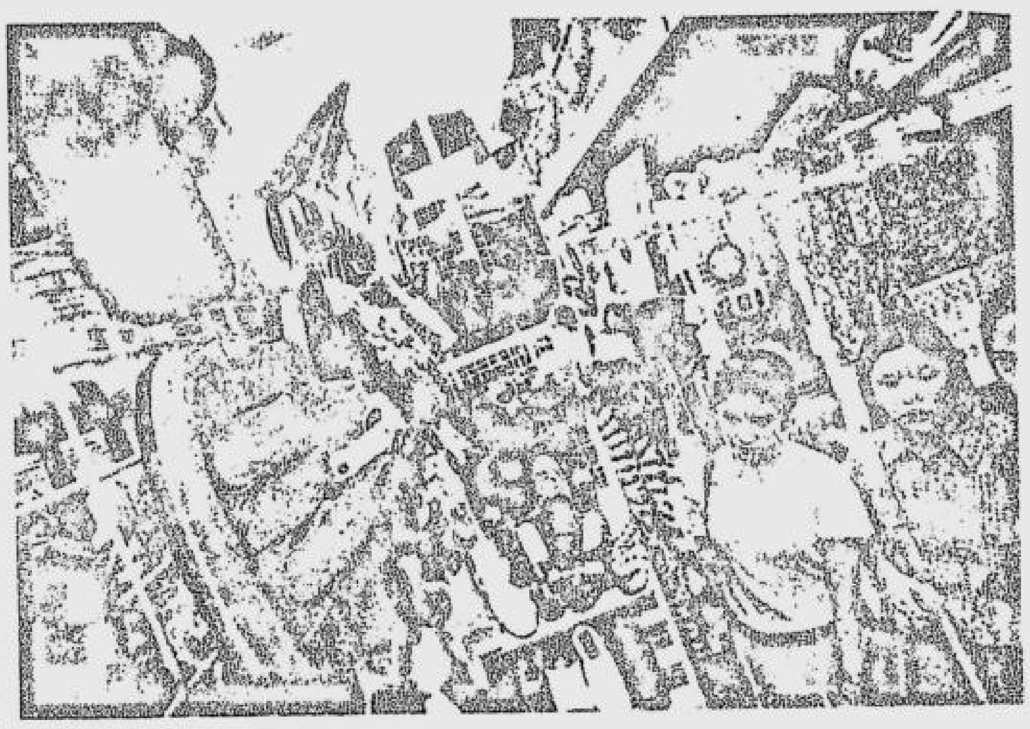
Mention the word "Greenhills" to any Metro Manila denizen and it immediately conjures up images of wall-to-wall bargains, with rows upon rows of small stalls offering a wide variety of goods available at very low prices to anyone who would dare brave the jam-packed crowds and go through the time-honored tradition of haggling for the best deal.

For many years now, GSC has been a shoppers' mecca all year round, especially for people who are looking to stretch their hard-earned income to buy things for their loved ones and friends. Considering the country's economy being what it is today, it is not just de rigeur but also quite practical for any self-respecting metro resident to make, at least, a once-a-year pilgrimage to the land of affordable buys-from knock-off designer apparels, shoes and underwear, to cellular phones, computer parts, genuine South Sea Pearls and other accessories.

But GSC wasn't always the place for penny-pinching shoppers.

Greenhills Shopping Center takes its name from the area in San Juan where it was built. Much of the 16-hectare tract of land, where this commercial landmark now stands, originally belonged to the old Spanish Filipino Ortigas family. Here, the shopping complex's unique cultural blending takes root. GSC was built around 30 years ago on Spanish mestizo land to become a home for business establishments largely funded by Filipino-Chinese capital, as Unimart and Virra Mall were.

People who live near the area still remember the old GSC as smaller, less frenzied, and more relaxed. This was before the bazaars and the throng of shoppers fighting for elbowroom in congested spaces became the dominant image associated with the place.



In the '80s', it was the weekend hangout for nearby residents, especially the younger ones, who frequented the place to shop, or simply to kill time watching movies, roaming the video arcade in Virra Mall, dining at one of restaurants, or indulging on some quirky interest among the hobby stores in Shoppesville.

One could easily remember what the place was like back in the heady days of the '80s, not just as a place for shopping and daytime recreation, but as one of the hottest nightspots in the metropolis. It was the gimmick place in town, with the Music Hall and Annapolis Live.

Not surprisingly, many Greenhills oldtimers saw the eventual takeover of the *tiangges* as an intrusion into their personal spaces and private memories. For the rest of Metro Manila, however, it was a boon that meant having one place where their wallets had more purchasing power, in a classier environment than such places as Divisoria or Baclaran.

The 'tiangge' invasion

The *tiangges* first came to GSC as a yearly shopping bazaar for the Christmas season. It proved to be very successful, and over the years, the stalls have increased and the crowds become thicker. Eventually, the *tiangge* became year-round.

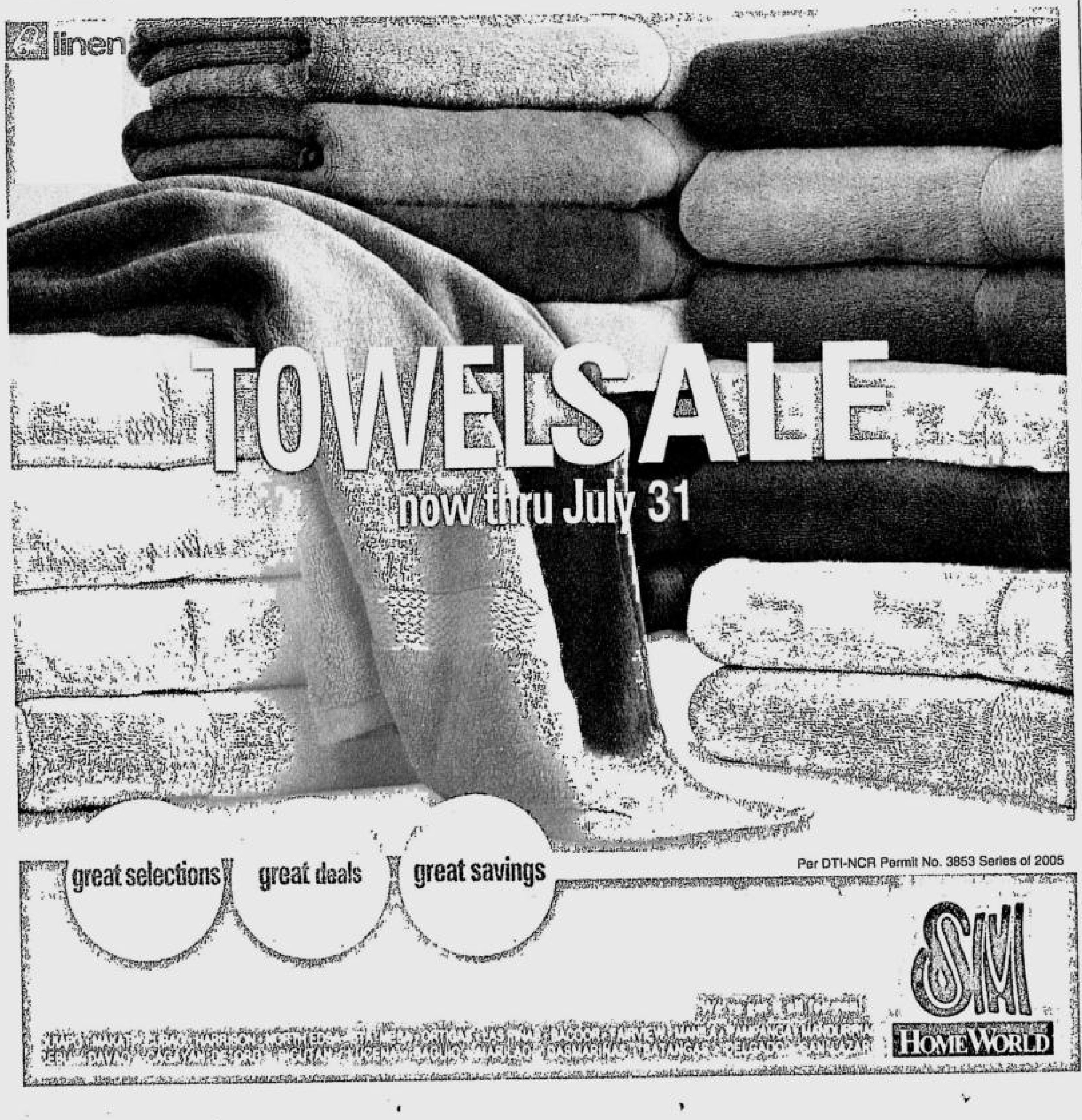
One of the reasons *tiangges* have been particularly successful at GSC is that they offer something different to shoppers. Unlike in some malls, when you buy something, maybe there are about 200 of you would have the same thing. At GSC you have a lot of unique finds.

The traders should get the credit for exerting every effort to offer something new to GSC buyers. The traders even personally buy in Bangkok and China, on an average of twice a month. And they don't buy in bulk, unlike the retailers in the department stores.

Aside from the bazaars, GSC also has managed to keep itself relevant to different markets, being the de-facto top-of-mind choice of shopping place for whatever happens to be the most in-demand items of the times.

When the personal computer revolution brought desktop computers within the reach of more Filipinos, shops sprouted at VirraMall, turning it into a center for the best deals in PC sets, peripherals, parts, accessories and software. Before the advent of the big chain computer shops, computer enthusiasts flocked to Greenhills to buy their PCs or find parts to upgrade their old ones.

WHERE/ 12



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3853 Series of 2005

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July 15-31
Treat yourself to great discounts on our impressive selection of jewelry items, watches, and costume jewelry. And as a bonus, your minimum purchase of P1,500 from any participating jewelry or watch store gives you a chance to win more items from this fantastic selection!

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A2-325, SERIES OF 2005

What's the lowest in credit cards?

WHEN was the last time you had enough for your shopping?

With a shoestring budget at today's prices, one doesn't get too far. It is true even with credit cards. When consumers are saddled with prohibitive interest rates, you won't go far with your card purchases, afraid of incurring burdensome interest charges.

So you end up buying less. Either way, owning a credit card doesn't give you the flexibility to manage your expenses, and enjoy the thrills of shopping.

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East West Bank MasterCard brings a host of innovations that will surely please users, especially individuals and families, who need not dispense of life's essential purchases. It features the lowest interest rate of only 2.25 percent on basic purchases such as medicines, gasoline and groceries. Other cards normally charge an average of 3.25 percent on all types of purchases. Thus, compared to other credit cards, East West Bank actually offers a rate that's 30 percent less on basic purchases.

For lifestyle purchases, East West Bank MasterCard charges only 2.75 percent, about 15 percent lower than other similar cards in the market. So whether it's a basic or a lifestyle purchase, cardholders find enough room to spend more. Thus, they are able to buy more of life's essentials without the burden of paying high interest charges.

In addition, East West Bank MasterCard collects the lightest minimum amount due-only 3.5 percent of the total revolvable balance or P200, whichever is higher. This gives cardholders greater flexibility to manage their debt payments. East West Bank MasterCard also gives cardholders the longest interest-free credit period of up to 54 days. Members enjoy zero interest from transaction date to payment due date if full balance is paid. Plus, cardholders enjoy a higher cash advance limit of as much as 50 percent of one's available credit.

East West Bank MasterCard also waives its membership fee for the first year. For the membership fee payment, cardholders may choose to pay monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. Billing begins only on the second year. With an East West Bank MasterCard, you can afford to enjoy life's essentials because you have more room for purchases. And yes, you can start believing that you can go far with your credit card these days!

[illegible] re the [illegible]

From page 1

When competition among mobile companies grew and gave birth to pre-paid telephony, Greenhills also became the first in anyone's mind for the latest mobile phone models at the best price.

Today, even with competition from other malls and shopping centers, GSC still keeps a good share of the PC and cellphone markets.

Nurturing entrepreneurs

Even with the big mall chains staking their claim on every city and municipality in the metropolis, changing not only the landscape but people's lifestyles and shopping habits, GSC still draws in the crowds, not just during the holiday season but all-year-round.

On weekdays it gets about 80,000 people, on weekends 120,000-not yet on peak but just the regular season. By the peak season, the 80,000 becomes 100,000 and the 120,000 balloons to 150,000. This is not really a lot according to GSC management compared to other malls, but just sufficient.

GSC has a unique advantage for its commercial establishments — traffic is more likely to translate to actual sales as people do not go to GSC just to roam and enjoy the air-conditioning. At GSC more than half of the people buy.

With such a market, it's no wonder the area draws in the merchants as well. With the *tiangge*, GSC also offers great opportunity for entrepreneurs looking to go into business without throwing in millions of pesos worth of capital.

The *tiangge* is a very affordable way for young people to try entrepreneurship. One does not have to spend a lot of money on deposit, fixing the stalls, etc. The rate is P30,000 per month for one-and-a-half by one-and-a-half meter space. Plus, for P100,000 worth of merchandise, one would only risk about P130,000 — still a small amount compared to a stall in the mall.

GSC is a free market. Traders keep the prices down because they are keeping a close watch on each other.

And GSC management does a good job of attracting traders and encouraging them to stay. What retailers want is a shopping center that provides them with the best possible atmosphere to sell their products, and that means good air-conditioning, clean toilets, good parking, attentive security, innovative marketing.

To this end, GSC has been undergoing some much-needed renovation and upgrades, to keep business healthy and bring up its level of competitiveness against the bigger, newer and more modern malls.

Facelift

The long process involved in revitalizing and updating GSC actually began two years ago.

It started with the renovation of the Theater Mall and the former Manila Bank Arcade, Greenlanes, Padilla Arcade and the PCIBank Arcade came next. The roof of the *tiangge* has been repainted and the air-conditioning improved since last year. There is a new parking building. On what was formerly a surface parking lot, there is now a building with three-level parking.

Since the start of renovation, GSC management has already spent close to P1 million. They plan to spend another P500 million in the next couple of years, and maybe about P3 billion in five years more.

GSC now also sports some improvements and new additions, which recent visitors are already enjoying.

One of the more obvious concessions to modern times is the reopening of the cinemas, now upgraded into state-of-the-art movie theaters; comparable with those in trendy places like Rockwell and the new Greenbelt complete with the now ubiquitous Starbucks outlet to serve a new generation of Greenhills habitués.

Some new specialized retail areas have also opened. The Lifestyle Center in the old Manila Bank Arcade dedicates an entire floor to collections of very fine furniture and home accessories, where one can buy Bali furniture at prices up to 30 percent less than in similar shops in Makati.

There is also the new Beauty Central, a new one-stop health and beauty destination at the second floor of the Greenlanes Building. A brainchild of beauty expert Ricky Reyes, Beauty Central has primary health care, dental as well as cosmetic surgery clinics, a beauty salon, a shop that specializes in wigs, a facial center, a spa and other related beauty establishments.

A new fashion corridor simply called The Shops has been opened beside Unimart, to complement the fashion offerings of the *tiangge* with more choices of branded fashion items.

While GSC has long been a popular destination for people who want to buy quality, affordable South Sea Pearls, a new section is now open to offer finer gems like gold, diamonds, as well as other jewelry pieces. The new Jewellery is on the second floor of the former PCIBank Arcade, and has been operating for a couple of months already.

In the pipeline is another venture to revive GSC as a gimmick place and bring back that entertainment component to GSC to tell people that it has always been their gimmick place.

And there are more things to look forward to, such as The Strip, which is a cluster of fine dining restaurants, fast food chains and other dining outlets at the corner of Ortigas and Connecticut streets; as well as the expansion of the *tiangge* to include affordable leather shoes made in Marikina, just like the old Marikina Shoe Expo in Cubao.

Value shopping

The "Divisoria of the AB and upper C market" has indeed managed to keep up with the changing moods, tastes, preferences and needs of its market throughout the years. And in the process, it is winning a new generation of shoppers and businesses, who find within its 16-hectare expanse a little bit of everything that they want and need. Today, it is all set to hold its own by offering a unique kind of one-stop convenience.

The secret lies in its management's lucid understanding of what it is and what it wants to offer. As Greenhills Shopping Center general manager Joey Santos says, "Our positioning is very clear-our mission is to be the best value shopping place in town."

Top entertainers at SM City San Lazaro

WHEN SM City San Lazaro, the 20th SM Supermall, opens its doors to the public today, it will not only bring its great shopping and leisure fun, but also the great entertainment it has been known for to the heart of the city.

Topbilling the opening day will be top band Freestyle at 11 a.m.; and soul siren Nina at 5 p.m.

The fun spills over the following day, July 16, as R&B princess Kyla takes center stage at 11 a.m. This will be followed by a performance by Parokya ni Edgar.

Capping the first weekend on Sunday, July 17 is cool rapper Francis Magalona and daughter Maxene, who will perform at 11 a.m. Pretty teen idol Anne Curtis and child star Tolits will then thrill the audience with their song at 5 p.m.

If one isn't star struck enough, here's more on Thursday, July 21. Purefoods hardcourt heart throbs Alvin Patrimonio and James Yap will greet SM shoppers at 11 a.m. And what better way to end a day of shopping, eating out and having fun, than a concert by popular singer Kitchie Nadal at 5 p.m.

It's teen time on Saturday, July 23 as ABS-CBN young stars Kaye Abad, Joseph Bitangol and Maja Salvador entertain mall goers. Starstruck's Yasmien Kurdi, meanwhile, will thrill the mall crowd on Sunday, July 24.

All performances will take place at the SM City San Lazaro's Entertainment Plaza. Don't miss the fun.

Shining. Shimmering. Shopping...Splendid!
Gravitate to treasures found at The Jewellery of GSC.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER
CENTER PLAZA - 2ND FLOOR
Two new entrances to THE JEWELLERY
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2ND FLR. CELLPHONE TIANGGE
FOUNTAIN (Ground Flr.)
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ENTRANCE
BRIDGEWAY SHOPS
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You won't be able to resist looking at all the precious gems found at The Jewellery of the Greenhills Shopping Center. With new access ways that would make your shopping easier, The Jewellery houses shops wherein you can find the widest range of golds, silvers, platinums, pearls and more, offered by well-known jewelers. Now, more shops have been added for a wider variety of genuine and value-for-money treasures.

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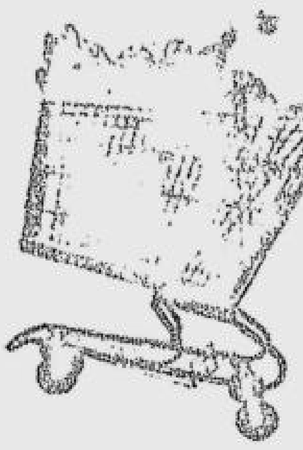


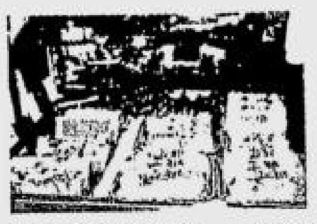
SUPER SAVINGS
AT SM SUPERMARKET SAN LAZARO

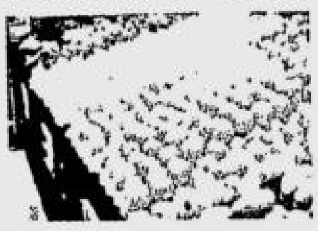
SM Supermarket

Big savings and great deals await shoppers from Manila's east side, as SM Supermarket opens its 26th store on July 15 at the new SM City San Lazaro.

BUDGET-FRIENDLY SHOPPING

SM Supermarket San Lazaro introduces a novel yet economical way of shopping, reminiscent of wet-market shopping style. The supermarket's *takal-takal* section allows customers to browse and pick out fresh produce, seafood, dried fish, eggs, processed meat, deli products and seasoning per piece or takal. Shoppers need not buy more than what they need because they don't have to stick to big amounts of pre-packed products.





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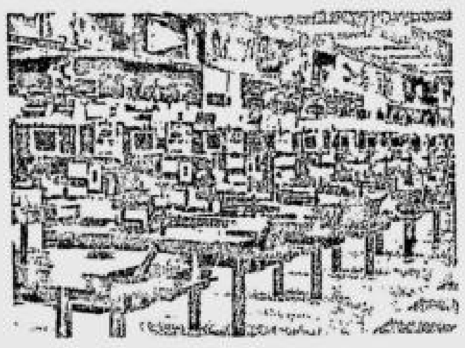
FRE

SHOPPING CONVENIENCE

With a floor area of approximately 9,000 square meters, shoppers can expect shelves upon shelves of grocery items and general merchandise as they easily maneuver their carts through spacious aisles. And, with no less than 35 check-out lanes, shoppers need not worry about waiting in long lines.



SO MUCH MORE SHOPPING VALUES

As a welcome treat, SM Supermarket will be giving away fresh fruits, vegetables and other freebies on its opening weekend. Shoppers also get a chance to win one of 15 scooters in its opening promo. To join, all they need to do is present single or accumulated receipts worth P500.

YELLOW TAG SPECIAL

Customers can also look forward to the **YELLOW TAG Special promo** where they can play the pachingko game for a chance to take home household items instantly! To qualify, customers simply have to purchase a minimum of P500 worth of groceries with the yellow tag.

Exclusive **VALUE PACKS**, where shoppers can save up to 80% on every purchase, comes with assorted **SM BONUS** items and a **FREE Panasonic Flashlight.**

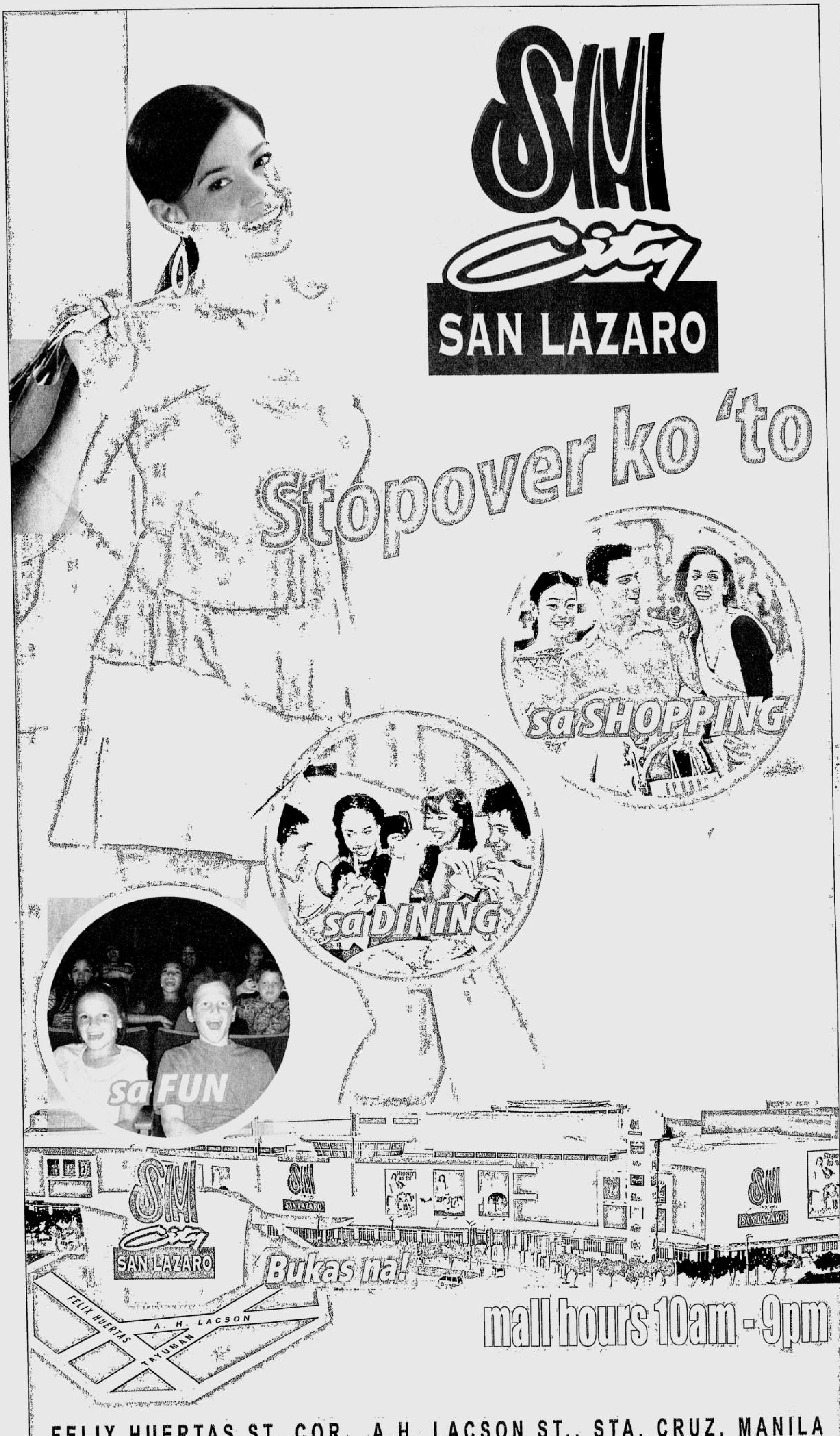
Value Pack
FLASHLIGHT

MORE SAVINGS

To enable shppers to get more value for their hard-earned peso, SM Supermarket showcases lowest-priced items that compare most favorably with wet market prices. These items include such staples as meat, poultry, seafood and produce. Other shopping savers include the **TOTAL LOWER COST (TLC)** promo popular for its marked down savings on selected groceries and dry goods. On top of this, TLC Fresh offers customers ideas on how to prepare delicious yet economical meals.

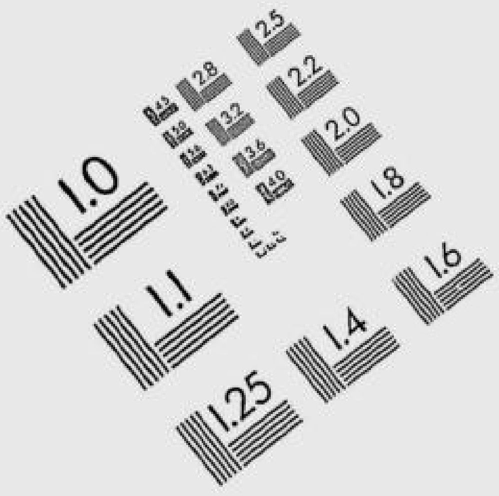
YELLOW TAG
SPECIAL
WIN PRIZES Everyday!
TLC

The shopping public is invited to come and join fun family activities, non-stop celebrity appearances and other exciting events at the opening of the new SM Supermarket at SM City San Lazaro!


SM City
SAN LAZARO
Stopover ko 'to
sa SHOPPING
sa DINING
sa FUN
SM City
SAN LAZARO
Bukas na!
FELIX HUERTAS
A. H. LACSON
TAYUMAN
mall hours 10am - 9pm

FELIX HUERTAS ST. COR. A.H. LACSON ST., STA. CRUZ, MANILA

IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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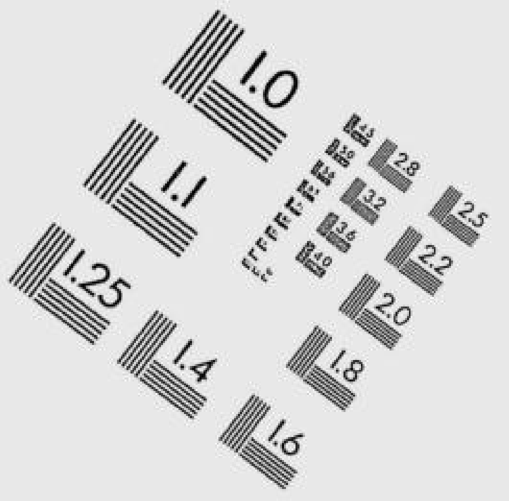
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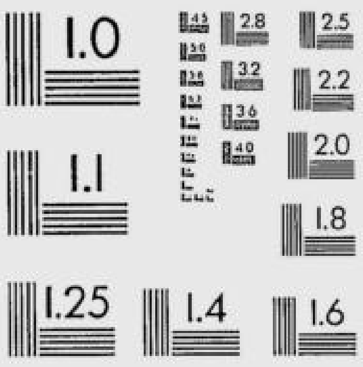
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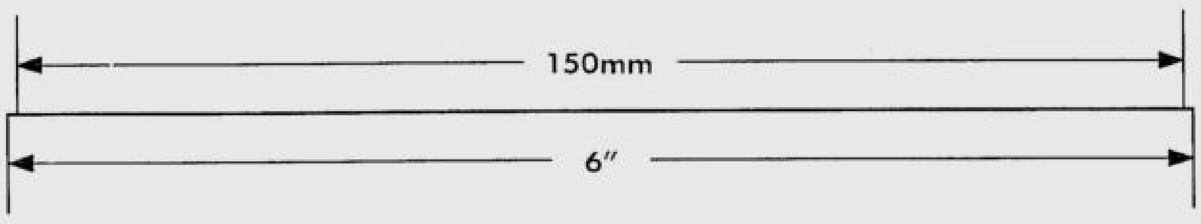

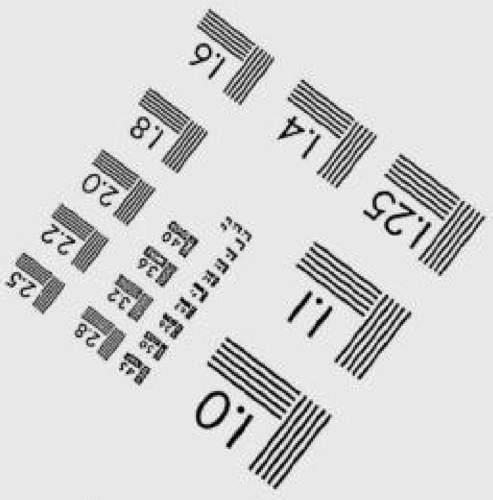
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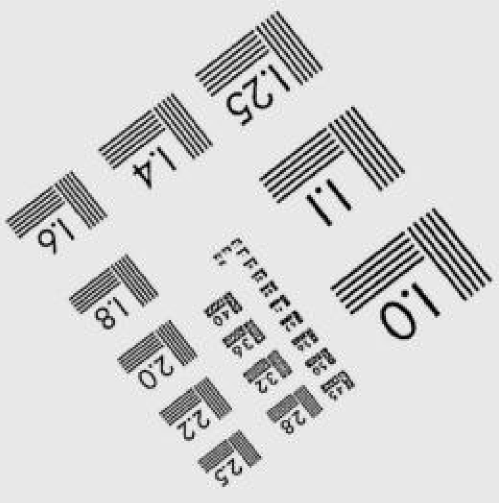
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START

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FILMED: AUGUST 2005

REDUCTION: 19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

JULY
16 THRU 31
2005

REEL 361

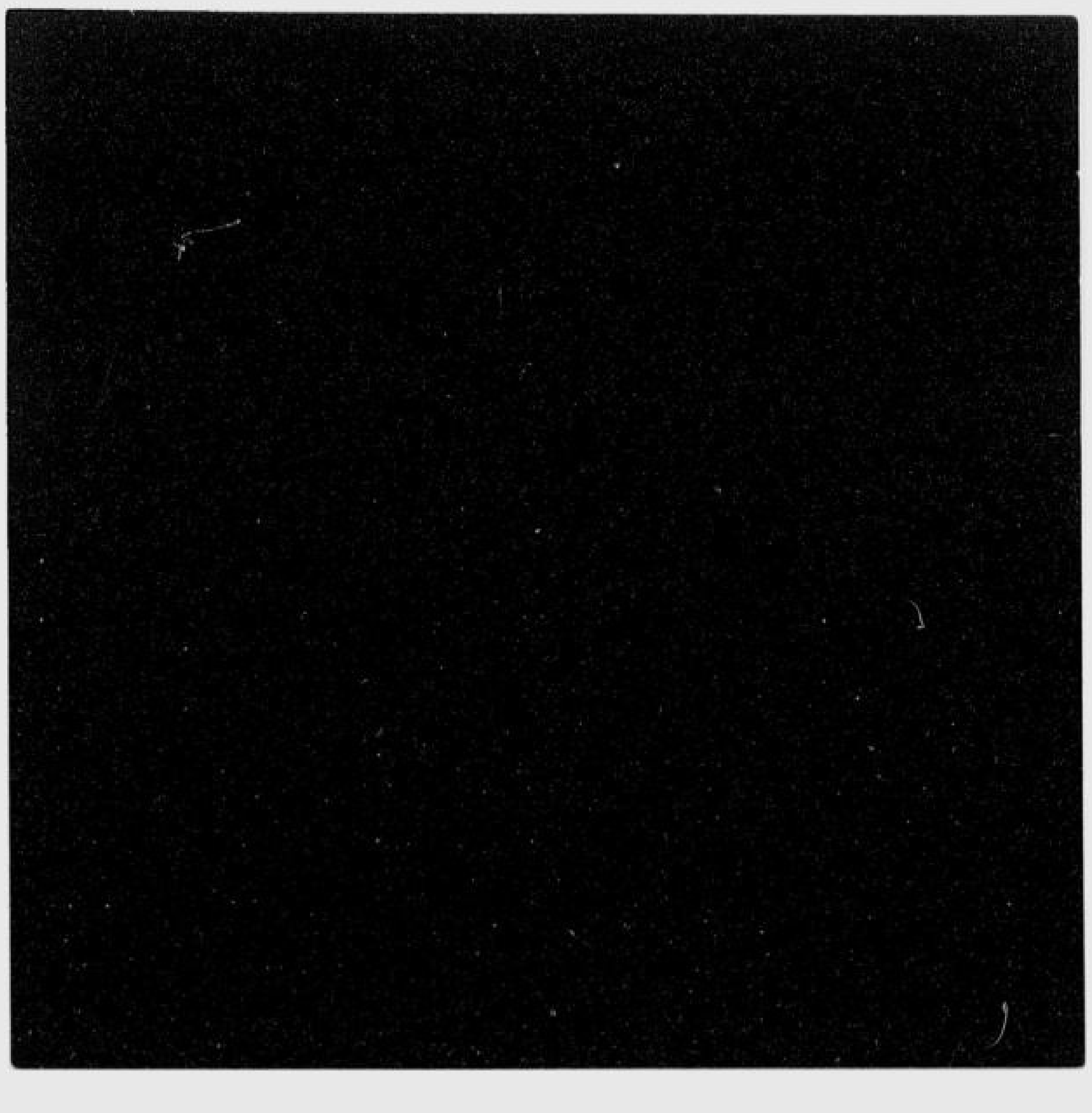

IMAGE EVALUATION
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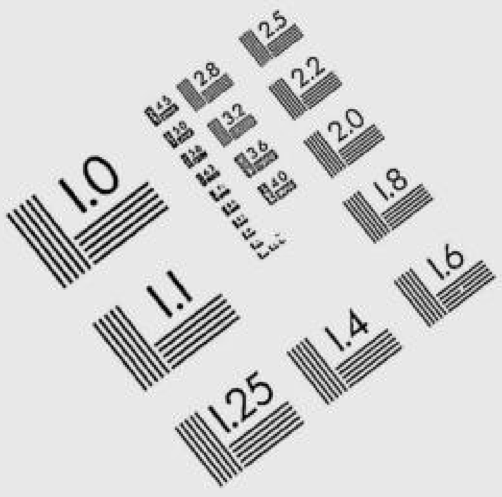
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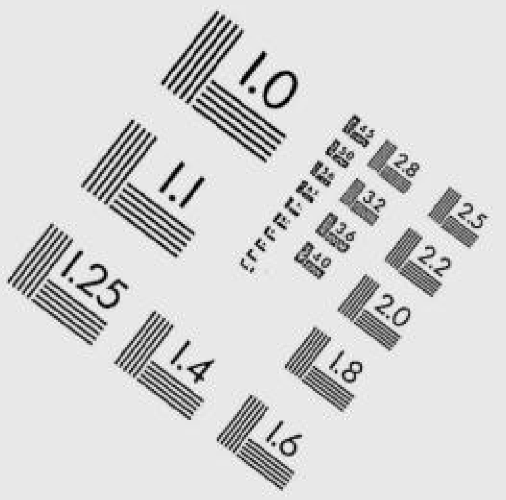
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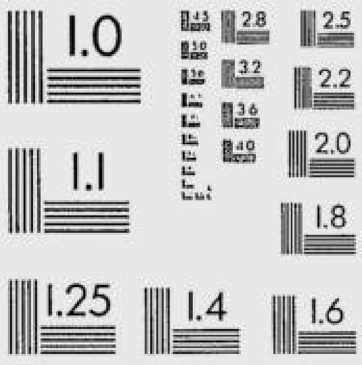
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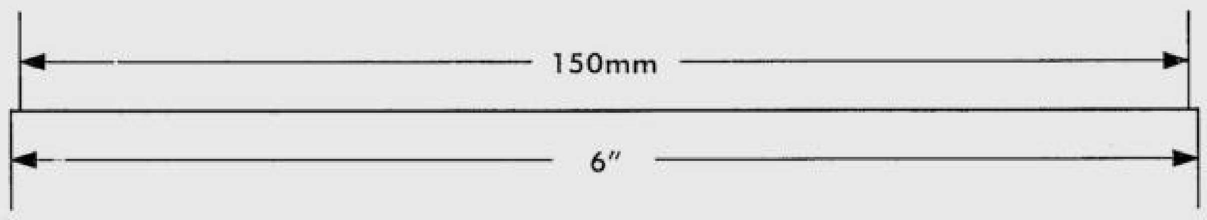

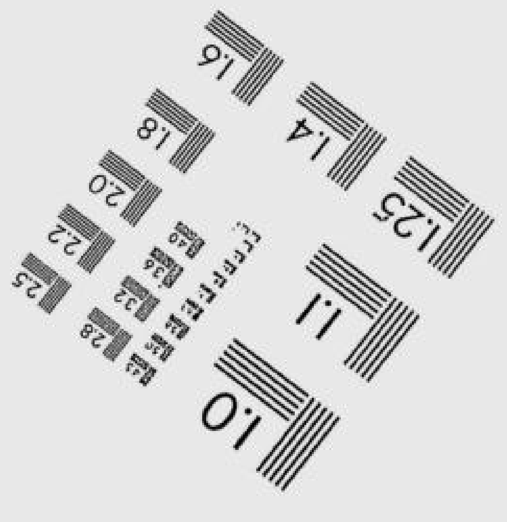
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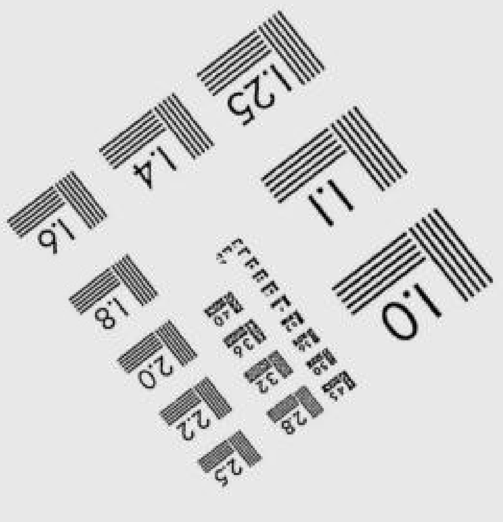
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